

2018 SABR Annual Report Regional Chapter Reports

Rio Grande Chapter (Albuquerque, NM)

All of our meetings this past year were speakers meetings, and all our speakers were players, managers, or coaches in professional baseball.

Jack Voigt was the 2017 hitting coach for the Las Vegas 51s, the PCL affiliate of the New York Mets, and the hitting coach for the PCL squad at the '17 Triple-A All-Star game. Last year was his 31st year in pro ball.

Another speaker was Dyar Miller, pitching coach for the PCL Fresno Grizzlies, the top farm club of the Houston Astros. It was his 50th year in professional baseball — shades of Don Zimmer. He did not make “The Show” as a relief pitcher until he was 29, but made the most of it as a very competent reliever. After his playing days, he has been a coach in the minors and majors. For all who heard him, at least one memory was brought to the present as Miller recalled numerous stories of games and players.

For SABR Day 2017, we had Austin House as our speaker, born and raised in Albuquerque and a pitcher here from Little League through high school and college (UNM) and then, and now, back here pitching for the Albuquerque Isotopes. For SABR Day 2018, we had his “growing up” batterymate and close friend, Mitch Garver, a catcher in the Twins organization who was with them for a month in '17 and this year is handling about half their catching. All of us could once again recall local games at the Little League, high school, and college levels.

We had more nostalgia hearing Steve Shirley speak. Shirley pitched for the Albuquerque Dukes, the forerunner of the Albuquerque Isotopes, almost 40 years ago. He had a brief time in MLB with the Los Angeles Dodgers and then pitched in Japan. After returning to the states, he became a manager and coach with a number of minor league teams, settled back here, and was a pitching coach for his sons' high school teams. Shirley is a natural vibrant storyteller, and he, with gusto, made sure we knew that he retired from MLB with a higher batting average than Ty Cobb — he had one at bat and got a single!

Lastly, the chapter has no bank account and has no financial information to report.

— **David Kunsman**

Magnolia Chapter (Atlanta, GA)

The Chapter SABR Day Meeting, organized by Program Chair Craig Brown, featured presentations by several Chapter members.

George Bullock, “Hall of Fame Voting: Objective or Subjective.”

Wayne Marshall, “Federal League: The Third Major League.”

Carl Camann, “The ‘Mexican Jumpers’ and the Mexican League.”

Craig Brown's web site, www.threadsofourgame.com, continues to expand through his own research and the cooperation of numerous “diggers.” He presented his research “The 10 Most Influential Uniforms of the 19th Century” at the Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Baseball Conference in April.

Rickwood Field in Birmingham hosted the Fifteenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference. Chapter members Terry Sloope (1928: The Second Half) and Karl Green (Survey of 19th Century Southern League Baseball) made presentations at the Conference.

Chapter members continue to hold informal meetings each month at various settings in and around Atlanta, including Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, The Hudson Grille-Sandy Springs, and the Tallant Baseball Museum in Cumming. Non-members frequently attend, and the Chapter is pleased to report that many baseball enthusiasts have been added to our membership roster.

We also attended, as a group, minor league games played in Rome and Gwinnett, as well as an Atlanta Braves' game at the new SunTrust Park. Chapter members also attended the SABR 47 Annual Convention in New York, the Arizona Fall League Experience, and the SABR Analytics Conference.

The Magnolia Chapter has a web-site, which is maintained by Terry Sloope and can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/magnoliasabr/home>. Bob Barrier has established a Facebook group through which the Magnolia Chapter can provide updates on its activities.

— **John Hill**

Rogers Hornsby Chapter (Austin, TX)

The Rogers Hornsby Chapter continued a long run of regular monthly meetings, celebrated three years of BasebALZ, a baseball-themed program for Alzheimer's patients in Central Texas, took outings to the Round Rock Express and gathered for a World Series game watch party.

The chapter hosted the 12th annual Hornsby Chapter Winter Meeting, which featured memories of the historic regular- and post-season run of the World Series champion Houston Astros. The meeting also featured a presentation by Monte Cely about his visit to Cuba with other SABR members. The keynote speaker was Branch B. Rickey, president of the Pacific Coast League and grandson of Branch Rickey. Chapter member Anne Keene, the daughter of former professional baseball player Jim Raugh, talked about baseball in the 1940s and a little-known Navy team that featured Ted Williams. Her father was a batboy on that team, which also featured Johnny Pesky and Johnny Sain. Her book, *The Cloudbuster Nine*, was published in May 2018 and she plans to discuss her book at SABR 48 in Pittsburgh in June. The meeting was held at historic Old Main, the oldest building on the campus of Texas State University in San Marcos.

BasebALZ organizers Jim Kenton and Monte Cely have been in touch with other SABR members across the country who are interested in replicating the baseball-themed program for Alzheimer's patients elsewhere. The Hornsby Chapter continues to partner with Alzheimer's Texas to help Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers recover baseball memories. The therapy program involves six bi-weekly meetings, which include discussing favorite players and teams, remembering details of attending a ballgame, and handling baseball items such as gloves and memorabilia. In addition to Kenton and Cely, other Hornsby Chapter members volunteer to participate in this valuable program.

The chapter had several outings to see the Texas Rangers Triple-A affiliate Round Rock Express, including a game in April 2018 in which fog delayed the game for 30 minutes. Express officials later said that the fog-induced delay was the first in franchise history.

Monte Cely also attended and filed dispatches about the Caribbean Series 2018 from Jalisco, Mexico. Puerto Rico defeated the Dominican Republic to take the Serie del Caribe crown.

In May 2018, the chapter met for the 138th consecutive month, a streak dating back to December 2006.

Many of the monthly meetings include lunch at a restaurant in the Austin area, sometimes involving baseball trivia quizzes.

— **Gilbert Martinez, Monte Cely, Jan Larson**

Boston Chapter (Boston, MA)

Since the Boston Chapter's last report one year ago, there is much to report on activities offered and attended by many members and friends. We left off back in June 2017 with the upcoming June 3, 2017 program at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Boston. Chapter members had put together histories and available pictures on the thirteen baseball players buried there: Mike Kelly, to David Birdsall, John Irwin, William Selden, Cannonball Jackman, Frank Shannon, Tom Sullivan, Herman Young, Alfred Jupiter, Pearley Johnson, Charlie Daniels, Jesse Brown, and George Bryant. A Hall of Fame player, a classic 19th century player, Negro League, local Boston semi-pros, and a few with just a cup of coffee to fill out their Major League careers, this group of players was the most diverse group of players found among the cemetery lists we studied.

After the SABR convention in late June, several Chapter members attended a beep ball tournament on July 7, at Woburn, MA that was hosted by the Boston Renegades. The Chapter has supported the team that is sponsored by the Association of Blind Citizens. SABR members will hear more about beep ball, as there will be a presentation, "Baseball for the Blind," by David Wanczyk at the upcoming convention at Pittsburgh.

Chapter members also worked with the Red Sox organization and Gordon Edes, Team Historian, on a July 31 program to celebrate the life and career of Woonsocket resident Napoleon Lajoie. Several of his descendants were there, and Chapter members assisted with research and with a musical ensemble with Chapter member Ty Waterman in the lead.

And of course, throughout the summer, Chapter members were frequent attendees at Fenway Park, as we must, and as the saying ought to be, "there are no good seats at Fenway, and yet, there are no bad seats there either." Beware the seats in Section Six! At least the beer stands on the concourse below it are nearby, the view of the visitor bull pen is right ahead!! – and Pesky Pole is right there!! – even when the view of the game is not.

On September 9, 2017, Ralph Carhart (of the hall ball project and the 19th Century Committee) came to Boston for the gravestone commemoration for Andy Leonard at New Calvary Cemetery, Boston MA. New Calvary Cemetery is contiguous with Mt. Hope Cemetery and with Mount Calvary Cemetery. Each cemetery has an impressive list of Boston baseball notables. Andy Leonard's grave site previously had no marker.

Besides an impressive graveside dedication, the attendees were also offered a guided tour of Mount Calvary where several famous baseball players and other notables are buried – Tim Murnane, the Heavenly Twins, John L. Sullivan, Babe Ruth's first wife, Nuf Ced McGreevy (who we unfortunately missed, but will make good in the future!).

A very big THANK YOU!!! goes out to Bob Bailey who organized the Excel sheet that lists many baseball players buried throughout Massachusetts, which gave me a great start identifying locations of many baseball notables.

The Boston Chapter Fall Meeting, November 11, 2017, started with lunch at the Sunset Cantina and proceeded to the WBUR studio for an afternoon of presentations:

Carl Yastrzemski's Role in Left Field after Ted Williams" by Zach Sanzone

The Statcast Database - how to get the numbers, and more! by Andy Andres

Clearing the Bases: A veteran Sportswriter on the National Pastime, by Jim Kaplan

The Case for Luis Tiant for the HOF, by Robert Watt, esq.

Local Print Reporters of the 1920s and 1930s. By Donna Halper

Baseball's Touchstone Events of 1968 and 1969, by Paul Hensler.

The WBUR location is fast becoming a favored location. Along with its excellent facilities, it is very near the location of Braves Field, now part of Boston University. A short walk over to the field conjures up stories about when Boston was a two-team town. Oh, if it was so now....twice as much baseball, such an embarrassment of riches Boston could endure.

BOSTON – *A member of the N.L. in Massachusetts whose settlers achieved fame for scalping Indians. A part of the present population achieved fame by regularly scalping Giants (N.Y.) on opening day. Generous citizens offer a medal to the newspaper correspondent who can report a baseball game for his paper without any reference to beans.*

Principal food supply: codfish, beans and beef hearts

Sample of language spoken: I should permit my mental equilibrium to be agitated by disturbing reflections.

Meaning: I should worry.

— R.E. Sherwood, *Baseball Magazine*, pg. 90, August 1913.

For more than a decade, the MLK Day Chapter meeting had been a fixture on the calendar, but for 2018, something new was offered. The SABR Day event had been so close to the MLK Day meeting that discussion had been ongoing about what to do about it, whether to continue offering both programs, or consolidate. Then, Red Sox Historian Gordon Edes, invited the Chapter to Fenway Park on SABR Day for a program coordinated by both the Chapter and the Red Sox organization. The program was offered to Chapter members at a discount as well as to the general public. No one knew if it would work, whether there would be interest at that time of year for a baseball program, what with the other three sports in Boston dominating the sports columns and airwaves. We should not have been concerned at all, since baseball is still a hot subject even during the deepest, darkest days of winter (certainly not unfamiliar with Boston fans). A crowd of more than 100 attended, with Craig Breslow as the main attraction. Gordon Edes kept the program in order, conducting interviews with the Wentworth Institute baseball team, the Boston Renegades and several other speakers on subjects of interest for Boston fans. We had no reason to be concerned. The event was SRO.

The Boston Chapter was not done by then, not discouraged by cold, snow nor dark of night. After all, February 5, 2018 was Truck Day. Although Truck Day is a relatively new “tradition” according to contemporary fans, it should be known that Boston’s baseball fans a century ago also would celebrate when both the Red Sox and the Braves left Boston for spring training. There were no trucks back then. They would gather at South Station and cheer the teams as they left by train for the training camps down south. Just as what was done long ago, today there is music, cheering, and promises hoped for then as well as now, for a winning season. This year’s crowd that gathered on a cold, but at least sunny noontime celebration were of course, mostly unaware that such an event has a distant history. This is where SABR comes in – research, knowledge and presentations! So the tradition goes on, and baseball

is in the air, cold as it might be, even in February.

The Boston Chapter is not done yet! Lasell College, Newton MA, approached the Boston Chapter to participate in a program there on April 28 to encourage students in their sports management program. Four students presented their research projects as part of their curriculum. Chapter members also participated. Bill Nowlin gave the keynote speech, Donna Cohen educated the mostly male attendees about the important role women play in baseball history and today's game. Saul Wisnia spoke about Luis Tiant and the campaign to elect him to the HOF and the challenge of baseball research, its joys and sorrows.

Bringing the interest and expertise that SABR chapters have in abundance to local educational groups ought to be one of our major activities. There is more to baseball than the game itself, as research so quickly leads to other areas, such as social change, legal, financial, economical, literary, scientific, and even such far-fetched interests such as the analysis of uniform styles and even culinary history. Yes, there is someone out there, I know for sure, studying the impact on baseball of hot dogs, Cracker Jacks and beer.

And still, the Chapter was not done yet. Each year, the Boston Chapter joins with the Gibson Museum in the Back Bay, with a program celebrating Boston baseball history of the late 19th and early 20th century, the era when 137 Beacon Street was in its glory. On May 21, this year's program, "Honoring the World Champion 1918 Red Sox," featured stories by Gordon Edes and Skip Desjardin.

What we have learned about baseball in Boston over the past year:

Fenway Park is the center of the baseball universe – officially so proclaimed by Bill Lee.

Doyle's Café, Jamaica Plain, is the best gathering spot after a program.

The Dug Out Café hasn't changed since the years when Pinky Higgins used to fall off the bar stool there after Red Sox games.

A lot of baseball history is found walking around cemeteries – and old 19th century form of Sunday afternoon entertainment. Who knew!

Dixie Tourangeau, radio personality and the Boston Chapter's official photographer of our great events (thank you for all the photos included in this report, dx!) continues to leave his indelible mark, and opinions on WBZ radio during the darkest hours of the night. Keep it up Dixie.

A special note of gratitude goes out to Gordon Edes, Red Sox Historian, for promoting interest about Boston baseball history and involving the Boston Chapter in programs at Fenway Park.

Thank you to many Boston Chapter members who stepped up to the plate, sometimes on short notice, to share their knowledge with the rest of us. Bill Nowlin, Saul Wisnia, Donna Halper, Dixie Tourangeau, Donna Cohen, Andy Andres, Zach Sanzone, Paul Hensler, Dan Desrochers, Bob Goodof, to name a few, and so many others who helped to make the past year memorable and productive.

Are we done yet? Perhaps it is so for now. The Chapter looks forward to the convention in Pittsburgh and many Chapter members will be there. We expect we will return inspired with taking on new and interesting baseball research. Also there's hope in Boston that we will remain ahead of the Yankees and look forward with hope to a season that will not break our hearts despite it being a game that is designed to break our hearts, as it begins in the spring and fills the afternoons and evenings and just as the cold rains come..... check back with us in Boston on October 2. See then how we're doing.

— **Joanne Hulbert, Daigo Fujiwara, David Laurila**

Goose Goslin Chapter (Cherry Hill, NJ)

The Goose Goslin Chapter was created and approved in early December of 2017. Since then, we have had two meetings. The first meeting was on SABR Day, January 27, 2018. Around ten people attended and listened to a presentation from Gary Sarnoff who presented on our namesake, Goose Goslin.

Our second meeting was held on April 21 with around eight in attendance. We had a guest speaker, author Jason Love, present on historical baseball sites in the Philadelphia and New Jersey area. One of our members, Ira Levinton also presented on Mike Schmidt and his home run dominance in a 14-year span.

— **Anthony Arot**

Emil Rothe Chapter (Chicago, IL)

In 2017-18 the Chicago SABR Chapter participated in the following activities:

September 2, 2017: Lisle Meeting

On September 2, 2017, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Lisle Library. The meeting included discussions with Julie DiCaro, radio host for 670 The Score and freelance sports columnist who focuses on the intersections of sports and justice; Emily Waldon, Detroit Tigers MiLB Writer/Scout at *The Athletic Detroit* and 2080ball; and Gordon Wittenmyer, Chicago Cubs beat writer for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

November 18, 2017: Chicago Meeting

On November 18, 2017, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Chicago Public Library's Portage-Cragin Branch. The meeting included a presentation by chapter member Tom Thress on his McFarland publication "Player Won-Lost Records in Baseball: Measuring Performance in Context", a Thanksgiving-related trivia quiz, and a hot stove discussion about the prospects for the Cubs and White Sox in the 2018 season.

January 20, 2018: SABR Day Meeting in Naperville

On January 20, 2018, in commemoration of SABR Day, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Nichols Library in downtown Naperville. The meeting included presentations by Aaron Nieckula, minor league field coordinator for the Oakland Athletics and manager of the Vermont Lake Monsters; Josh Nelson, podcast host for the SoxMachine web site; and David Marran, member of the White Sox scoreboard crew and an expert on White Sox history. Prior to the meeting, members gathered at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria for a hot stove discussion.

March 24, 2018: Chicago Meeting

On March 24, 2018, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Chicago Public Library's Austin-Irving Branch. The meeting included a discussion with Baseball columnist Phil Rogers and a presentation by chapter member Bruce Allardice on "Baseball in the Wild West" in which showed how baseball and the Wild West developed together. Prior to the meeting, members gathered at the Burgundy Restaurant for a hot stove discussion.

May 19, 2018: UIC Game

On May 19, 2018, Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Curtis Granderson Stadium at UIC to

watch the UIC Flames battle the Youngstown State Penguins in Horizon League action.

— **Richard A. Smiley**

Hank Gowdy Chapter (Columbus, OH)

During the past year the chapter continued to sponsor established activities and added new ones. The following is a list of this year's activities:

July and August 2017: Columbus Clippers games at Huntington Park. Prior to each game our members met in the ballpark's Hall of Fame Bar to talk baseball with Ken Schnacke, Clippers President and GM, and Joe Santry, Clippers team historian. 22-25 members and guests attended each.

October 2017: Our annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch Game One of the 2017 World Series.

Quarterly SABR Baseball Book Club: Our book club meets at various Columbus Metropolitan Public Library branches to discuss each quarter's selection. Blake Sherry was the moderator. Generally attended by about 20+ members. Each discussion is then followed by a lunch at a nearby restaurant.

- May 2017 – *As They See Them*, by Bruce Weber – the author participated by phone.

- August 2017 – *Gas House Gang*, by John Heidenry.

- November 2017 – Various books about Babe Ruth by a variety of authors.

- February 2018 – *The Summer of Beer and Whiskey*, by Edward Achorn – the author participated by phone.

- May 2018 – *The Team that Changed Baseball*, by Bruce Markusen - the author participated by phone.

December 2017, January and March 2018– Informal Hot Stove Baseball talks. These were conducted at the public library and also included continuing discussing over lunch at a local eatery. This was a new activity for our chapter this year.

January 2018: Winter Meeting - This year's annual SABR Day meeting at the Westerville Public Library was attended by 45 members. The featured speaker was Dan Szymborski (ESPN.com/ESPN Insider) on "Sabermetrics and Collusion in a Post-Moneyball World. Jim Leeke presented "Moose and Eddie: Harry McCormick and Edward Grant in the Great War." Scott Longert presented "Cry Babies and the 1940 Pennant Race." Our local presenters was Dr. Charles C. Alexander for "The Half-Game Pennant Race." Rick Huhn was the moderator. As usual a trivia contest (by Chris Gallutia), Hall of Fame balloting, and a book raffle were included.

March 2018: Online draft for Chapter Fantasy Baseball. Conducted through Yahoo Fantasy Sports site and administered by chapter member Aaron Koch.

April 2018: Another annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch MLB Opening Day baseball.

April and May 2018: Several Ohio State Baseball games attended by 8-12 members at each game.

— **Rick Huhn and Blake Sherry**

Cliff Kachline Chapter (Cooperstown, NY)

Induction Day meeting, July 30, 2017: Met at Tillapaugh's Funeral Home in Cooperstown, site of all our Induction Day meetings. A big crowd of around 50 heard Jay Jaffe lead off our meeting, talking about his new book, *The Cooperstown Casebook*. Chris Dial held court on fielding metrics. Scott Crawford from the Canadian baseball Hall of Fame gave us updates on the history, inductees and future plans of the CBHOF.

October 21, 2017: Met at the Bullpen Theater at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. It was a bittersweet meeting as we said farewell to long time Cooperstown fixture Gabriel Schechter, who was soon to move out West. Gabe regaled us with his usual variety of funny and odd stories.

Gabe also presented Jeff Katz with the 2017 Cliff Kachline Award, a true chapter honor. Jeff was cited for his reinvigorating the chapter when he became president, keeping the chapter thriving and growing, attracting new speakers and high profile Induction weekend guests. The award was established by in 2002 and honors active chapter members whose contributions to SABR and baseball reflect the achievements and qualities of SABR founding member and long-time Cooperstown resident Cliff Kachline. Among contributions considered are ones connected to baseball research, baseball writing, and activities furthering the objectives of SABR in general and the Cliff Kachline chapter in particular.

Previous winners of the honor: Cliff Kachline (2002), Bill Deane (2003), Gabriel Schechter (2005), Gene Carney (2007), John Pardon (2008), Bruce Markusen (2012), and Dick Hunt (2015).

SABR Day 2018: Met at the Bullpen Theater at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Doug Gladstone spoke about over 800 ex-Major Leaguers who played before 1980 and how they receive either small or no pensions. Tom Shieber presented a series of old newspaper classified ads; teeth, watches and Mark Twain's umbrella all disappeared at nineteenth century baseball games. Jim Gates gave a view of the history of non-baseball trading cards. Girlie cards dominated the 19th century!

— **Jeff Katz**

Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter (Dallas, TX)

The **Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter** had several events during the last 12 months. We met on June 5, 2017, at the Legends Museum Auditorium at the Globe Life Ballpark where our special guests were **Rick Herrscher**, member of the original 1962 New York Mets and **Bob Baillargeon**, who pitched in the Pacific Coast and Texas Leagues with various Dallas and Fort Worth teams. We also heard from **Josh Boyd** and **Mike Daly**, both of whom are Assistant GM's for the Texas Rangers.

The Chapter next met on December 7, 2017 at the same location. Our special guest was **Darrell Evans**, veteran of 21 Major League seasons in which he slugged 414 home runs for the Atlanta Braves, San Francisco Giants, and Detroit Tigers. We also heard from **Jayce Tingler**, the Assistant General Manager for Player Development for the Texas Rangers.

The chapter also had a booth at the Rangers Winter Carnival on January 29, 2018 where chapter members, led by **Jeff Wood**, visited with and encouraged patrons to join SABR.

In addition, the chapter, led by **Bo Carter**, awarded its annual **Howard Green SABR Metroplex Collegiate Player of the Year Award** to **Austin Listi**, second team All-America outfielder from Dallas Baptist University. This marked the 25th presentation of the award, which is named in honor of the chapter's founder **Howard Green**. Chapter President **Paul Rogers** and Vice President **Bo Carter**

presented Listi with his award at the DBU Baseball Banquet on February 9, 2018.

Listi, from Hargrave, Texas, hit .336 with 24 home runs and 55 RBI's in 2017. The 24 home runs were fourth most in the nation and the most in a single-season in DBU's Division I history dating back to 2004. He also hit 23 doubles and had a team-best slugging percentage of .735.

The standout senior also became DBU's career home run leader with 53 home runs over his four-year career. He was first team All-Missouri Valley Conference as a sophomore in '14 and as a senior last season while establishing four additional Patriots all-time records for games played (236), starts (230), at-bats (872), and runs scored (198). He is second in career doubles at Dallas Baptist with 68 as well as total bases with 499, is third in RBI's with 186, and had the school's seventh-best slugging percentage (.572) in the DBU's Division I era. Listi was drafted in the 17th round of the Major League Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies.

The chapter also awarded the sixth annual **Carroll Beringer SABR Metroplex Collegiate Division Player of the Year Award**, named for **Carroll Beringer**, long-time chapter member, former Texas League All-Star and Player of the Year (1959) and major league coach with the Dodgers and Phillies. Beringer, who passed away in 2011, was very active in supporting college baseball in the area. The award is for the top Metroplex collegiate player from four year colleges playing Division II, Division III, or NAIA baseball. The sixth award winner was Texas Wesleyan third baseman **Luis Roman**.

Chapter President **Paul Rogers** and **Lisa Neunaber**, daughter of **Carroll Beringer**, presented Roman with his award at halftime of a Texas Wesleyan – Southwestern Assemblies of God basketball game on February 12, 2018.

Roman, a 6-0, 220, senior from Ponce, Puerto Rico, batted .370 with 41 extra base, 17 home runs and 68 RBI. He paced the team in at bats (219), runs (69), doubles (20), triples (4), home runs (17), RBI's (68), total bases (160), slugging (.731), walks (37), and on base percentage (.462). He also played sterling defense as the starting third baseman in all 62 games for the 47-15 Rams. He also was selected in the 23rd round of the MLB Draft by the San Diego Padres, becoming the 41st Texas Wesleyan player to be drafted and the fourth in the tenure of head coach Mike Jeffcoat.

Roman's performance led the Rams to the program's third-highest win total in 48 seasons of varsity baseball. The team was the Sooner Athletic Conference regular season and tournament runner-up and advanced to the semifinals of the NAIA National Championship Opening Round tournament. He led the Rams were to a national ranking of 12th nationally - their highest national ranking since 2008 when they climbed to eighth. Roman's 17 home runs' total was the highest total by a Ram during Jeffcoat's 16-year tenure, and he was 23rd nationally in home runs, 12th in total bases, 17th in runs scored, and 22nd in RBI. He ranked in the Top 50 nationally in 11 different statistical categories. In the SAC, Roman ranked second in runs scored and total bases, third in home runs, RBI and slugging percentage, fifth in triples, and seventh in doubles.

— **C. Paul Rogers III**

Rocky Mountain Chapter (Denver, CO)

The past year has been one of continued growth and success for the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

The 2017 calendar season began with the Chapter's annual SABR Day. A well received and attended lunchtime, media-themed panel — featuring RootSports' Jeff Huson, KOA Radio's Ed Henderson, MLB's Thomas Harding and the Rockies Warren Miller) — was followed by a hallmark RMSABR event: the annual, regardless-of-the-weather mass game of catch!

In April, in the opening weeks of the 2017 Regular Season, the Chapter again hosted Rockies GM Jeff Bridich. Over forty SABR members and guests enjoyed lunch and a reprise of the “State of the Rockies” format, which, again, featured lively Q&A.

Then in July, the Chapter held a Summer Chapter Meeting that included a Baseball Paraphernalia Garage Sale and Trivia Tournament. Members and non-members enjoyed perusing and bidding on a number of historical baseball memorabilia and artifacts, and then certain fans participated in a trivia tournament to test their baseball knowledge.

In November, the Chapter held its premier event with its 20th Annual Banquet (at Coors Field), which vastly exceeded expectations with a record 160 paid participants, making it the largest ever SABR-sponsored baseball function. The banquet had many guests and featured speakers, including the following individuals:

Keynote Speaker – Patrick Saunders, President of the Baseball Writers Association of America;

Featured Speaker – Ryan Spilborghs, former Major Leaguer and current color analyst for AT&T Sports Net;

Lifetime Achievement in Baseball Award – Rockies Vice President of Scouting Bill Schmidt; presented by Bob Gebhard;

Special Guest – Barry Bloom, national columnist for MLB.com and President of the Hemond-Delhi Arizona chapter of SABR; and

Master of Ceremonies – former Major Leaguer Jason Hirsh.

A popular recurring event, a silent auction, as well as a book sale accompanied the occasion.

Popular Monthly Luncheons gained in average attendance and reached 133 consecutive recurrences (over 11 years!) by the concluding month of the 2017 season. Members and guests can count on energetic conversation, trivia and general baseball camaraderie: all particularly appreciated during the off-season, “Hot Stove” months!

— **Alex Marks**

Field of Dreams Chapter (Des Moines, IA)

Activities during the past year:

January 27, 2018: Eleven members and guests gathered for a “baseball roundtable” at Twisted Vine Brewery in West Des Moines.

John Liepa gave a brief sketch of a proposal to create a comprehensive (or at least as comprehensive as is possible) reference book on baseball in Iowa. Such a book would include bios of Iowa-born Major Leaguers, and other noteworthy historical baseball tidbits.

A meeting was planned for May (see next entry) to foster further discussion of where a project might lead.

Lindsay Bell provided an overview of his PhD history dissertation. Lindsay is a graduate student at Iowa State and is exploring the methods by which Commissioner Landis and other baseball leaders determined the early criteria for what players should be enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

May 12-13, 2018: Although not a chapter meeting, several members of the chapter met with John

Liepa and others at the West Des Moines Public library on May 12 to discuss topics to be considered for an Iowa baseball book. The hope is to include player bios, histories of minor league clubs, notable events that occurred in the state, landmark ballparks, and many other topics.

Chapter members and guests gathered on Mothers Day, May 13, at Principal Park in Des Moines for a baseball game between the Iowa Cubs and Round Rock Express of the Pacific Coast League. I-Cubs Assistant General Manager, Randy Wehofer, visited our skybox for a Q&A session. Wehofer previously was an I-Cubs play-by-play radio announcer, and began his career in Burlington, Iowa as the radio announcer for the Burlington Bees.

Sadly, torrential rains in the early afternoon caused the game to be rained out. A make-up date will be announced for June or July.

Upcoming: The chapter will hold another baseball outing at Modern Woodmen Park in Davenport for a Midwest League game between the host Quad City River Bandits and Peoria Chiefs.

A fall meeting is planned, perhaps for Newton, Iowa, to hold further discussions about an Iowa baseball book.

— **Tim Rask**

Detroit Chapter (Detroit, MI)

The Detroit Chapter held its 2018 SABR Day meeting on February 3 at the historic Detroit Public Library in Midtown Detroit. Featured guests were Brian “Chip” Martin of London, Ontario; Mike Neal of Adrian, Michigan; and Mitch Lutzke of Williamston, Michigan.

Martin discussed his newly published book, *The Detroit Wolverines: The Rise and Wreck of a National League Champion, 1881–1888*. He took questions from the enthusiastic audience and signed copies of his much-needed work afterward.

Mike Neal, instructor in Communications Arts & Sciences at Adrian College, spoke about his new documentary, *Bud Fowler and the Page Fence Giants*. Neal then screened the film for the Detroit Chapter—the first time the documentary had been shown outside of a film festival.

After the screening, Neal and Mitch Lutzke discussed the history of the Page Fence Giants and the reasons that neither a book-length history nor a documentary had previously been made about the fabled club. Lutzke, who teaches history at Williamston High School, is the foremost expert on the Page Fence club’s history. His book *The Page Fence Giants: A History of Black Baseball’s Pioneering Champions*, will be published in June 2018 by McFarland.

After the meeting, some of the members gathered for a social hour at a nearby pub, while others headed to Nemo’s sports bar in Corktown near the former site of Tiger Stadium to attend the annual Babe Ruth Birthday Bash.

The Detroit Chapter also held two other meetings in the past year. On November 11, 2017, the chapter met at the St. Clair Shores Public Library in suburban Detroit. Business of Baseball Committee co-chair and Detroit & Toledo Chapter member Steve Weingarden spoke about baseball’s Winter Meetings and the gestation of his committee’s ground-breaking, two-volume set on the history of the meetings.

Chip Martin spoke about the many connections between the 1880s Detroit Wolverines and the American Association’s Pittsburgh Alleghenys (later the NL Pirates). Martin also gave a preview of his

upcoming McFarland book on the Wolverines, which had not then been published. Mitch Lutzke then spoke about his upcoming book on the Page Fence Giants.

The meeting ended with a “debate” between Dan D’Addona and Gary Gillette about whether Lou Whitaker deserved to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame. (Less than two weeks before the meeting, the Hall announced that Whitaker’s teammates Alan Trammell and Jack Morris would appear on the Modern Era ballot, and both were elected in December.) While it wasn’t a great debate—both D’Addona and Gillette agreed that Whitaker was worthy of the Hall—it was a fascinating discussion, especially about why Trammell enjoys so much support while his keystone partner and statistical twin Whitaker is largely ignored.

The chapter’s most recent meeting was on May 19, 2018. when members met over dinner before attending the Michigan Opera Theatre production of *The Summer King*, a new opera about the life of Negro League legend Josh Gibson. Dr. Lisa Alexander and Gary Gillette participated in a pre-show discussion at the Detroit Opera House about Gibson’s career. Also on the panel were Sean Gibson, Gibson’s great-grandson and director of the Josh Gibson Foundation in Pittsburgh, and Daniel Sonenberg, the opera’s composer.

The Detroit Chapter’s social media director Brandon Robetoy maintains our Facebook page as well as the chapter’s informational Web site at www.SABR-Detroit.org, which includes links to audio clips and other information from past meetings.

— **Gary Gillette**

Carolina Chapter (Durham, NC)

The SABR Carolina Chapter had good year – We had several conversations with the Durham Bulls, and hope that gets more leverage. We had another SABR Day. Thomas Brown has written stories for BioProject and Games Project and provides meetings with stories of his interactions.

We purchased a banner and had a table at the Durham Bulls FanFest on March 3 where we gave away baseball cards and attracted a good deal of attention.

We are looking to create a program similar to the Seattle Chapter where the day is full with a bunch of talks followed by a minor league game.

We look forward to the continued momentum after many years of inactivity.

— **Chris Dial**

South Florida Chapter (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

The South Florida Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research is pleased to announce that we continue to meet the goals that SABR originally laid out in 1971. The aforementioned lofty goals are the continuation of fostering the study of baseball, past and present, and to provide an outlet for educational, historical and research information about the game.

I am excited about the future of not only SABR, but the Chapter and what it offers to our members, and prospective members. As a Chapter leader, I continue to seek out interesting and thoughtful speakers that share topics that interest everyone. It is a priority that everyone are made to feel welcome and has a

forum to share common and budding new interests as they apply to the game of baseball.

My goal is to continue to provide this outlet and promote SABR not only to our membership, but to those who have like interests. I look forward to the upcoming year and all that SABR has to offer.

Headed up by Chairman Sam Zygnier, the South Florida Chapter continued to hold regular meetings, keep active communication lines open with the local members and satellite members as well as promote friends, family and prospective members to attend all of our meetings and get-togethers.

In addition, our first chapter meeting of the new year was held on January 21, 2018, with Miami Marlins beat writer for *The Sun-Sentinel*, Tim Healey, serving as our keynote speaker. The group was further entertained by our guest panel of Cuban baseball stars from the past; Mike De La Hoz, Gonzalo “Cholly” Naranjo, and Oscar Reguera moderated by Tito Rondon.

Our second chapter meeting, held on June 3 had Jack Herskowitz, author of *Danger at the Ballpark*, serve as our keynote speaker. Gerry Garte hosted a lively trivia contest for the second time and continues to serve in that position.

Summary: There were two important contributors, whose assistance was invaluable, towards making a success of the South Florida Chapter. Special thanks to Barbra Zygnier, who played a vital role in helping to coordinate and organize all of our Chapter meetings. Barbra ensured that all guests feel welcome and her efforts towards helping put together all of our events were important. Without her hard work and diligence the meetings would not have been possible. In addition, Gerry Garte has taken on the active role of Trivia Master and donated prizes to the members to encourage participation in our meetings as well as challenge the most trained of baseball minds.

— Sam Zygnier

Kekionga Chapter (Fort Wayne, IN)

July 22, 2017 meeting recap: Our July 22 meeting was attended by ten baseball enthusiasts, Tim Tassler, Mark Souder, Steve Krahn, Roger Hawks, Tom Blessing, Brian and Ed Bratt, Don Graham, Blake Sebring and Bill Griggs. Here is a brief summary of the meeting with a few additional notes.

After a brief discussion of the Negro League Museum in Kansas City we answered the trivia question which I found at the Museum, “Who were the only four players to play in both a Negro League World Series and a Major League World Series?” (*Willie Mays, Monte Irvin, Satchel Paige and Larry Doby*)

There was a brief update on Dixie Tourangeau’s quest to get a monument or memorial of some kind at Northeastern University to commemorate the former South End Grounds where Kekionga played the Red Stockings in 1871. Dixie has found that the Northeastern University team played all seven home games there in 1922 which he hopes will persuade NU to properly recognize the site.

It was also reported that the Parks Department has yet to respond to our offer to finish the monument project with a sign at the former grounds.

I led the presentations with a brief update and correction of a previous presentation. Thanks to Bob Gregory’s research notes I found that the newspaper notice that the Kekionga base ball team was practicing north of the Bowser foundry was corrected the next day by saying it was actually north of the Murray Benningan Foundry. I had previously shown maps which showed the “Bowser” location would have been southwest of where League Park was eventually constructed. The location of the correction leaves us with an unanswered question. If “north” is correct and not a typo, it would place the practice grounds in the area of the railroad yard east of Calhoun Street. If it is a typo, which I

believe is likely, and it was south of the foundry, it would place the practice area in the same location of their home grounds from 1866 -1868.

Bob's notes also revealed that the first scheduled Kekionga game on July 4, 1866 was rained out, but did not cite his source. In any case there is no known record for the game.

I showed bird's eye view maps showing that the area the Summit City Base Ball Club played in 1862, west of the Hamilton Homestead became covered with buildings after the area was platted in 1865 and was therefore not possible to have been the location of the first major league baseball game. See final paragraph for more on this.

The same area depicted in 1868 has been platted and filled with buildings. Kekionga played from 1866 -1868 in the area east of Calhoun (the west red line) south of Hamilton (now Wallace) Street shown in the middle of the red outlines. which was part of the open space known as the Hamilton field.

The aforementioned plat of Hamiltons Third Addition, which included the west part of the 1862 grounds, stretched 140 feet east of Calhoun, which meant the playing area must have spread over into the adjacent property. The north 165 feet of the adjacent property west of Clinton, became Central Catholic High School (shown to the left) in 1938. It was the final tract sold out of the Hamilton family's holdings. It had been owned by Phoebe Hamilton, daughter in law of Allen Hamilton and widow of Andrew Hamilton. Phoebe died in 1932, outliving Andrew by 37 years. As shown above, the area south of Hamilton Street was wide open. This agrees perfectly with later descriptions of the original Kekionga grounds stretching between present day Wallace and Williams streets.

Tim Tassler followed with a brief update on his research on Negro League baseball in Fort Wayne. He passed out a chronology of events from June 13, 1884 until August 18, 1956 and a copy of an article from the April 11 *Fort Wayne News* front page in which the manager of the Fort Wayne Team in the Western Interstate League, Charles Jewel, described Sol White as "my colored second baseman, the only colored player in the league, will be a favorite." Jewel was correct. Though the league lasted only until the end of May, White established himself as not only the best player on the team, but also a fan favorite. Tim could not find that White suffered any of the prejudice that dominated not only baseball at that time, but the entire society. Sadly, White died penniless never knowing that he would eventually be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame as a Negro baseball historian and contributor. White was the first professional player to play for a Fort Wayne professional baseball team and later be enshrined in Cooperstown. Roger Hawks, the unquestioned authority of college baseball, added that the 1902 (?) Tri State baseball team had two blacks. Tassler also told us about a game on May 13, 1922 the St. Louis Stars team defeated the Fort Wayne Colored Giants 11-1. The relief pitcher for the Stars was 19 year old James "Cool Papa" Bell who would not have a career in pitching.

The same article also noted that 1895 Fort Wayne manager (Charles) Jewel would prefer to play without Sunday games. He was obviously referring to Mayor Oakley's statement which appeared the same day in the *Fort Wayne Weekly Gazette*. This led to a brief discussion on Sunday ball both in Fort Wayne and the Major Leagues.

Don Graham completed the presentations by discussing the 1950 Kekionga team and shared several priceless pieces of memorabilia about the team including the page below copied from his 1950 Kekionga program.

The team started as the GE Voltmen, but Don emphasized that the team was not in any way supported or sponsored by the General Electric plant, but rather the General Electric Club which also supported a team in the National Basketball League in 1937-1938.

After winning three consecutive championships from 1947-1949, the team lost its sponsorship and changed its name in 1950 to Kekionga to honor the original Kekes. The 1950 Kekes were sponsored

by the Fort Wayne Civic Baseball Assn during the regular season. Once they qualified to defend their national championship in Wichita, KS the Capehart-Farnsworth Co. sponsored them because the FWCBA didn't have the funds to send them to Wichita. Capehart-Farnsworth also sponsored their trip to Japan that year where they won the world title as well. The Midwestern United Life Insurance Company sponsored the team in 1951, not North American Vans Lines. North American Van Lines sponsored the team starting in 1952 thru 1954 (3 years). Then Allen Dairy sponsored them starting in 1955 thru 1957 (3 years). That was their last year."

The victory marked the fourth straight Semi Pro championship for the Fort Wayne team. In 1951 North American Van Lines took over the sponsorship and accordingly renamed the team after themselves. Though the Van Lines never won the ultimate championship they did defeat several major league teams who stopped here for exhibition games including both the White Sox and Browns in 1953.

In 1955 the name and sponsorship changed again, this time to Allen Dairy. Allen Dairy collected the city's fifth and final championship in 1956 at County Stadium in Milwaukee. In 1957 the team lost a heartbreaking title game on a home run by former big league phenom Clint Hartung. As promised I have attached a song named after him. Unfortunately, because of declining interest this would be the final year for the team.

They remain the only team to win four straight National Semi-Pro (now National Baseball Congress) World Series championships. Northeast Indiana Baseball Association Hall of Famer Red Braden managed all five champions and was the winningest Semi Pro manager of all time. Fittingly the presentation was delivered by fellow Northeast Indiana Baseball Association Hall of Famer Don Graham.

Tom Blessing, who founded the local Socrates Café discussion group, facilitated a discussion on why baseball TV ratings have plunged this year. This was based on a Boston sports talk show indicating the Sox television ratings were down 20% which was largely attributed to the retirement of David Ortiz, and that national ratings on Fox, ESPN and the MLB Network were all down about 10%.

All of us traced our love of baseball to our childhood and most of us to our fathers. Fittingly, Brian attended with his father Ed. Only one of us did not play baseball in some form as a youth. Some attended Major League games before ever seeing one on TV.

Blake pointed out that youth baseball participation has nosedived locally, especially Wildcat. It was noted that the cost of equipment is preventing many kids from being able to play baseball even at the lowest levels.

Blake also noted that the median age of the average baseball fan is 53 years old compared to 47 for the NFL and only 37 for the NBA. We agreed that baseball is sacrificing the hard core older fan in a futile attempt to attract younger fans.

We drew a direct relationship between the start times of the only important games in the 162 game plus playoff schedule and the complete apathy among younger viewers who are already in bed when most of those games are played. We felt that the 162 game schedules led to too many meaningless games.

I added that in three years of walking the local trails many of which go by baseball fields, I have yet to see anyone playing baseball and that my wife's third grade class in 2009 could not name even one major league baseball player. Since baseball interest is usually passed from parent to child, modern parents who have no interest have nothing to pass to their children. This is similar to two roosters trying to lay an egg.

Several noted that today's kids have multiple diversions, especially video games, and that few kids

enjoy standing around on a baseball field waiting for something to happen. Baseball cards which fueled our generation are targeted towards adult collectors and are too expensive for most kids. There are so many of them that it is virtually impossible to collect them all. In our day there were only Topps and Bowman. Tom reminisced about the 1955 Bownmans which simulated a television set. Roger related that cards were so cheap when he was a kid that he put unwanted cards in the spokes of his bicycle.

Mark decried the expense of not only the games, but also the TV packages to watch the games. Blake predicted that when and if ESPN eliminates or cuts its coverage, baseball will not be able to make up the difference and the current level of salaries will not be sustainable. It was pointed out that even if you shell out the money for the TV packages you still have several games blacked out because they are carried on non-cable over the air stations and cannot be shown in the home market of the participating teams. Local stations pick up a few these games for the Cubs, but Sox fans cannot watch most of their non-cable games.

In any case we all agree that the seeds of the love of baseball are sown in youth and this is no longer taking place for those and other reasons.

We agreed that minor league baseball is successful because it does not really sell baseball but entertainment woven around a baseball theme and as Tim pointed out, the single most important facet of minor league ball is beer. No one disagreed. Blake noted the giveaways are better now than ever before. Tom added that he had been to a game recently where attendees of all ages had one thing in common. They all had their noses in their cell phones and were ignoring the game.

Don thinks steroids have alienated several people and that MLB turned a blind eye to them in order to facilitate a perceived increase in interest due to home runs.

We were evenly divided over the question of whether games are too long, but no one argued that the game ought to be fundamentally changed to shorten them. Several of us thought that it was not the length of games but the content or lack thereof that caused the increased game times. One portly participant put the blame squarely on instant replay.

Lone Wolf Tom, however, not only voiced support for the use of the designated hitter in the National League, but thought that the attendance proves that baseball is healthier than ever. (Attendance was only down 146,831 through Friday's games, an average of only 102 fans per game.)

Eight of ten of us thought that sabermetrics had no appreciable effect on the enjoyment of the game, while the other two thought they were ruining the game. No one thought they enhance the game.

Maybe Mark said it best when he stated that baseball was once king so it has the furthest to fall.

Don related that a local restaurateur plans on opening and naming a restaurant after the never-existing Hamilton Field where he believes the first major league game was played. We have to wonder if President Dewey will be there for the grand opening. Don has been asked for memorabilia to connect the restaurant to the game, but refuses to support a lie and a myth. This would be like Mark Souder supporting Roger Clemens for the Hall of Fame based upon his exemplary off the field conduct and honest testimony before the house Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

May 6, 2018 meeting recap: Our May 6 meeting was attended by seven baseball enthusiasts, Roger Hawks, Jason Iwen, Sean Marquardt, Tom Blessing, Don Graham, Mark Souder and Bill Griggs. The meeting opened with answering the ten trivia questions previously submitted. Several of these were plagiarized from Dixie Tourangeau on his last WBZ late night appearance. One of the questions dealt with the location of the South End Grounds which is building its new research building in the outfield

of the former South End Grounds. Dixie is hoping to convince the folks at his Alma Mater who now own the property to place some sort of monument or marker to commemorate its rich history and is hopeful of using our success as a model. Roger has lived in the area and was familiar with the landmarks, and Mark has become an honorary Bostonite and has become familiar. Baseball historian Tom Blessing was also familiar with the 20th century Red Sox and Braves stadia. I knew Boston was in Massachusetts.

We also presented a mystery. The 1969 Red Stockings tour included a win on June 9 against the Springfield Mutuals at "Haisspdur" Park. I related that Dixie feels it is either spurious, fake news or one heck of a typo because he could find no mention of Haisspdur anything, much less a ball park. No one present had ever heard of it either. He will make a trip to library in the near future to solve the mystery.

I mentioned that I had been contacted by two people about SABR as a result of the monument, but unfortunately neither attended. Plans for a guest speaker for a future meeting were briefly discussed. More details will come in the future.

I added a few trivia facts and coincidences about Kekionga and the Cincinnati Red Stockings. For example the team was founded on 7/23/66. Kekionga was founded on 6/28/66. Kekionga was older. The Red Stockings moved to the final home, Union Grounds at Lincoln Park on 7/4/67. The very same day Kekionga played its first game ever at Camp Allen, its final home. Kekionga, however, did not move there permanently until 1869.

The first game the Professional Red Stockings played against an actual team was on 5/4/69. The first game the Professional Kekiongas played against an actual team was on 5/4/71.

The Red Stockings had a central ornamental grandstand reserved for women and gentlemen accompanying them called the Grand Duchess. Kekionga copied it in 1870 and also reserved it for women and gentlemen accompanying them.

The final game the Red Stockings played in Fort Wayne on July 13, 1870 was umpired by Cincinnati substitute Harry Deane. The final Kekionga game ever played on August 29, 1871 was umpired by Kekionga Captain, Harry Deane. Deane must have been a man of high integrity.

We spoke quite a bit about the monument and the roles Geoff Paddock and Mayor Henry played. Mark emphasized the Mayor must have played a strong behind the scenes role, but did not want to diminish the role Geoff played. The monument project would never have gotten off the ground without Geoff.

We have a tentative date of May 20 for the formal ceremony.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation by former Congressman Mark Souder. No one knows more about the relationship between politics and sports than Mark. Despite minor surgery the day before, he was in good spirits and recapped his chapter in the Book *Boston's First Nine*.

He spoke of his investigation of how Boston was able to acquire and maintain a baseball juggernaut despite being only the 7th largest city at the time. Boston nearly won in 1871 and then dominated the NA during the remainder of its tenure, which ultimately contributed to the demise of the league and the inception of the National League in 1876. He pointed out circumstances that allowed players to make more money in off the field endeavors than on the field and gave a thumbnail sketch of Al Spalding and his rise in the sporting good business.

He also spoke about the New York Mutuals and how they were originally a fire department and described the military role the men played at the Battle of Bull Run. He also pointed out that in that era the office of coroner was extremely lucrative as people could bribe the coroner to have the cause of death altered.

Sean asked Mark about the role of Tammany Hall. He described the role Tammany Hall and Boss Tweed played in baseball. Anyone who wants to know more should purchase the book *Boston's First Nine*. Mark wrote the first chapter "When Boston Dominated Baseball" and noted the aforementioned Dixie Tourangeau also wrote several. This book is a must for anyone who wishes to understand Baseball in the National Association, Boston in particular.

Everyone decried the cheating in professional sports. Mark was asked why cheating within the game such as doctored baseballs is accepted but cheating outside of the playing field such as steroids is not. His answer, which he emphasized was not a defense of the actions, was that internal cheating has been part of the game since its inception and baseball provides penalties for those who are caught, but perhaps more importantly cheating in baseball is not against Federal and State laws as is the illicit use of controlled substances.

There was a brief discussion about Concordia College baseball and a game Kekionga played against a picked nine consisting of six Concordia College students on 4/29/71. Roger Hawks is the unchallenged authority on local college baseball, but this might go back a bit far even for him.

SABR Day 2018 meeting recap: This year's SABR Day meeting was attended by 8 baseball fanatics. Due to a mixup, probably on my part, the meeting was held in meeting room B on the first floor.

We first discussed the proposal to change the name of SABR from the Society for American Baseball Research to Society for the Advancement of Baseball Research. Most of us had no firm opinion and would support it but Mark stood steadfast in his opposition, asserting a name change would serve no good purpose and would not encourage more members from other countries.

Tim then gave three excellent mini presentations. He covered Sanborn Maps which are available online and passed out an example of part of one which had League Park. He followed with a plethora of nuggets he had unearthed while doing his research on Negro baseball in Fort Wayne. My favorite was that the legendary Jim Thorpe played baseball in Fort Wayne on August 5, 1926 and recorded three catches and one dropped fly.

He noted that Smokey Joe Williams pitched in Fort Wayne. Williams was one of the greatest Negro League pitchers of all time and was elected to the baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Those who love baseball cannot help but appreciate the depth of research that goes into Tim's presentations.

Don Graham updated his research, though in Don's case he already knew it and did not have to research it, on Dwenger Park. He noted that the 1950 World Champion Capehart-Farnsworth team which won the World title in Japan was forced out of necessity to add a half a dozen "ringers" to replace those who either could not get away from work or who still harbored resentment over World War II. This was entirely within the rules. Among those was ace pitcher Charlie Shipman who was threatened with termination if he left work. Shipman, however, was also a member of the Allen Dairymen team which won its world title in 1956 at County Stadium in Milwaukee. Don brought a program from the game indicating the eight teams in 1956 were from the US, Canada, Mexico, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Holland, Columbia and Japan.

He noted the team was knocked out of the finals in 1957 by former Major League Clint Hartung's home run off Dairymen hurler, Parnell Hisner. Hisner played one game in the Major Leagues and had the distinction of not only striking out Mickey Mantle twice, but of also giving up Joe DiMaggio's final hit.

Don and I updated everyone on the proposed Dwenger Park sign. We talked with City Utilities

officials Friday afternoon and found them to be extremely friendly and supportive of our efforts. We discussed the general area that would work best for a sign and they even volunteered to connect us with a few sign makers who could handle the project. There is currently a sign behind closed gates which is not easily viewable from Dwenger Avenue. We were invited inside and took some photographs.

Don immediately noticed the information was incomplete. He is composing the verbiage for the proposed sign.

They even went to the trouble of creating a map showing the park overlaid upon a current overhead photo. The first photo shows the area as it is today and the second overlays the ball park.

Tom Blessing recruited two people to join his retro fantasy league which uses the stats from past years to decide a winner for a decade.

I stated that if I could put two people in the baseball Hall of Fame they would be Sadraharu Oh for his legendary contributions to Japanese Baseball and Rachel Robinson for her support of Jackie. Don, who bleeds Dodger Blue, suggested Gil Hodges. Mark suggested Minnie Minoso for being a double pioneer as well as having a worthy Hall of Fame career as a player. Tom questioned why Alan Trammell is in and Lou Whitaker is not.

Mark mentioned how his love of Nellie Fox as his favorite childhood baseball player helped connect with a political opposite and formed a lasting friendship.

We will keep you informed of the progress of the Dwenger Park project.

— **Bill Griggs**

Connecticut Smoky Joe Wood Chapter (Hartford, CT)

Our chapter has once again been very busy in the past year. We note the following accomplishments:

Many of our members attended the annual SABR convention in NYC last summer, and this included doing presentations, and participating in the trivia contest. Chapter presenters included Paul Hensler, Karl Cicitto, and Marjorie Adams (who received special recognition for her presentation on Doc Adams). Steve Krevisky did a poster presentation. Steve and Stan were on a team which reached the trivia semi-finals.

We had a group trip to Yankee Stadium, which many of our members, family and friends were part of. We got to see the annual Old Timers Day event, as well as the regular game.

Many of our members enjoy baseball simulation. We held a Strat-O-Matic event at a member's house, along with a barbecue. Some of our members participate as well in the Great American Fantasy League, or GAFL. Joe Runde is co-chair of the Games and Simulation Committee.

We enjoyed an outing to the Hartford Yard Goats game, where Roberto Clemente was honored. Alan Cohen works with them as a stats stringer, and keeps us informed about what they are doing.

We had an outing to a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, organized by Karl Cicitto. It was an enjoyable event!

Karl also edits our chapter newsletter, which has been well-received. It has a variety of articles of interest to the baseball community.

We also welcome new members, and Stan Dziurgot handles this aspect of the chapter.

We had a fall chapter luncheon at Rein's Deli in Vernon, which many of our members attended. We try to hold events in different parts of the state.

We support events with our chapter authors. Paul Hensler and Bill Ryczek spoke at events where their books were showcased.

Our general meetings at Quinnipiac University usually draw about 30 members from around the state. In March 2018, Karl organized panel, honoring Jeff Otterbein, former sports editor of the Hartford Courant. This went very well. We also had speakers about Nap Lajoie (Greg Rubano), Tom Yawkey (Bill Nowlin), the Colonial League (George Pawlush), and Lip Pike (Mickey the lip Tangel). Our October 2017 fall meeting featured Paul Hensler and Kevin Cook on their new books, and we learned about a new board game, Clutch Baseball, from Jordan Leite. We also have refreshments and a book sale at our meetings.

We like to attend the Southern New England Lajoie-Start Chapter meetings in Rhode Island, especially on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, where our members present as well.

In Fall 2017, our members participated in a special event at a museum in Waterbury, where there was a nice exhibit, commemorating the Yankee-Red Sox rivalry. Bill Ryczek moderated a panel, which included David Scrivines, a Red Sox scout, Dom Amore, who writes for the Hartford Courant, Rich Marazzi, an MLB rules expert, and Steve Krevisky, CT SABR chapter President.

Our holiday luncheon in December 2017 took place at a restaurant in central CT, where we had a couple of speakers, namely, Jim Kaplan and Bill Ryczek, and enjoyed some holiday fellowship. Family and friends are welcome at our events!

We continue to have periodic chapter breakfasts, where there is no set agenda, and we get to talk baseball in a relaxed and informal setting. We had a guest speaker from the Arizona fall league, Chuck Johnson, at our last one.

We just had another Strat-O-Matic event, hosted by Tom Monitto, and will continue to hold these.

Our members will again attend and participate in the annual SABR convention in Pittsburgh in June 2018.

We will have another chapter newsletter out by the end of the summer.

Karl is editing a book on Jeff Bagwell, building upon the Bagwell panel that he hosted in March 2017. This is a good chapter project!

Bill Ryczek will do an 1870s baseball broadcast, working with John Thorn.

We are considering minor league trips to see Norwich, a Detroit farm team, and also to see New Britain, an independent league team. The Yard Goats are a possibility as well, though they tend to sell out quickly, as Alan has pointed out.

We communicate with our members in a variety of ways. Karl sends our frequent messages on Facebook, along with info about CT players born on given dates. Steve sends out periodic e-mails through Jacob and the SABR website. We are doing well for a chapter in a small state!

Chapter officers:

1. President: Steve Krevisky
2. Vice-President/Treasurer: Alan Cohen
3. Communications Director: Karl Cicitto
4. New Member Coordinator: Stan Dziurgot

— Steve Krevisky

Larry Dierker Chapter (Houston, TX)

Our SABR chapter met on 12 separate occasions with an average attendance of 40 members. During this time we had our regular monthly meetings, a SABR Day event, attended two professional baseball games, and participated in a vintage baseball tournament.

We also reorganized our leadership team by forming 4 separate committees and energizing the committees with 17 member volunteers. The committees are Management, Membership, Communications and Special Events.

Members and guests who made one or more presentations during the year include Larry Dierker, Bill Brown, Greg Lucas, Mike Acosta, Todd Kalas, Bob Dorrill, Reid Ryan, Jim Breaseale, Jon Peters, Anne Keene, Scott Barzilla, Scott Nethery, Lisa Carter, Karen Wallace, Jesus Gutierrez, Ira Liebman, Chris Chestnut. Mike McCroskey, Bill McCurdy, Wayne Chandler, Dick Bily, and Deacon Jones plus we watched a brand new 40 minute documentary “A Long Way Home” featuring many local black players.

New practices introduced this year include contacting all inactive members to find out what we can do to get these people more involved in our chapter and have teams of four try to solve our trivia contests.

— Bob Dorrill

Monarchs Chapter (Kansas City, MO)

The Monarchs Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research had two meetings during the calendar year since the last convention. The first meeting held on October 28, 2017 featured 2017 Bob Davids Award winner Larry Lester, who spoke about his book *Baseball in Black New York City* and Mark Eberle, author of *Kansas Baseball, 1886-1941*, spoke about the 1922 Wichita Monravian.

Our second meeting, held a week prior to SABR Day, featured two fantastic speakers, local SABR member John Bauer and the director of the Royals’ Hall of Fame Curt Nelson. Bauer, who contributed to the recent SABR publication, *Sportsman’s Park in St. Louis*, focused his presentation on Fred Saigh the owner of the St. Louis Cardinals from 1948-1953. Bauer, who has contributed to many SABR titles as well as the games project, explained the process for contributing to SABR publications and encouraged those attending to get involved. Curt Nelson, author of *So You Think You're a Kansas City Royals Fan?: Stars, Stats, Records, and Memories for True Diehards* spoke about his list of the ten greatest games in Royals history, broken down into five regular-season and five post-season games. Nelson also brought along the jersey that Salvador Perez was wearing during the Royals 2014 Wild Card victory over the Oakland A’s. He explained you can always tell the legitimacy of such items because the carbonated grape juice they use to celebrate leaves a very distinctive stain.

Bill Nowlin has reached out to the chapter to help create a SABR BioProject based publication celebrating the Royals’ 50th season in MLB.

— Mike Webber

Maddux Brothers-Las Vegas Chapter (Las Vegas, NV)

This is the annual report of the Maddux Brothers-Las Vegas Chapter from August 2017 to May 2018. In August of 2017 the Chapter meeting was held at Cashman Field. After the meeting the three members that made it watched the Las Vegas 51s ballgame. Attended by only three because the Temperature that day hit 118 degrees.

Our next meeting was on September 18. Rick Swift reported on the recent SABR convention in New York. Dr. James Viasich gave a great presentation on “The Baseball Hall of Fame Myth,” the story of the founding of the Hall. Ten members were in attendance.

Our next meeting was SABR Day 2018 on January 27, 2018. We had a presentation about the Los Angeles Dodgers in the most recent postseason. by James Viasich. Phil Lawton give a presentation on autographed team baseballs and how to pick out real and fake balls. Rick Swift give a presentation on the Life of Wheeler Dell, the first Nevada-born MLB player. We discussed starting up an annual award award, to be given to a person in Las Vegas that works to bring baseball to the forefront in our area. Our first winner, Hailey Dawson, was honored for her ambition to throw out the first pitch at every major-league ballpark using her 3D-printed right hand made by UNLV engineering students. A nice award was given to her that week. Six members were in attendance.

Our next meeting was March 10 with only four members attending. We will be having a short meeting and attending the 51's ballgame on May 12.

— **Rick Swift**

Robinson-Kell Chapter (Little Rock, AR)

The two most recent meetings of the Robinson-Kell chapter were:

August 5, 2017: The guest speaker was former Arkansas Travelers Drew Heid, who discussed his time with the Travelers from 2012 -2014. The meeting featured presentations by Fred Worth on franchise home run leaders, Tom Van Hying on his biographies of Ruben Gomez and Pat Kelly and Wesley Wells on the evolution of statistics in baseball.

February 3, 2018: The guest speaker was former major leaguer Dick Hughes (1966-1968). He spoke of this time growing up in Arkansas and with the St. Louis Cardinals, including the 1967 World Series title over Boston and his time with Bob Gibson during Gibson's historic 1968 season. Tom Van Hying followed with a presentation of his time growing up in Puerto Rico and following the winter league there. Terry Turner followed with a brief presentation on George Kell and Fred Worth gave a talk about the strikeout dominance of Dazzy Vance in the 1920s. Jim Yeager concluded the meeting with another installment of his series *Backroads and Ballplayers: Baseball in Rural Arkansas*, focusing on 13 native Arkansas natives who appeared in just one major league game.

— **Madison McEntire**

Allan Roth Chapter (Los Angeles, CA)

The Allan Roth Chapter met on Saturday, May 27, 2017, in La Habra, California. Twenty-six members and guests saw excerpts from Jon Leonoudakis' documentary, "The Sweet Spot: A Treasury of Baseball Stories." The Sweet Spot is a collection of original baseball documentaries created by the award-winning documentarian. Stories and insight to the game most baseball fans haven't heard. We saw an episode highlighting SABR member and Dodger fan extraordinaire Emma Amaya. Emma responded to questions from the group.

Jon also showed a sequence with Jim Campanis Sr. and Jr., who discussed the art of catching. Jim Campanis Jr. also discussed his book, *Born Into Baseball*.

Jean Ardell discussed the politics of inclusion in baseball. She drew on her research as coauthor of the Ila Borders memoir, *Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey*. We also held a book auction and a trivia contest focusing on the 2016 season.

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, the chapter met in La Habra. Former major-leaguer Paul Pettit talked for over an hour about his experiences.

Don Zminda presented advance information about *Harry in Your Pocket*, his work on Harry Carey, sharing a presentation entitled "The Craft of Biography: Of a Club, of a Player,"

Rob Garratt and Jean Ardell reviewed their works, *Home Team: the Turbulent History of the San Francisco Giants* and *Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey*.

At first glance these two books appear to have little in common. Garratt chronicles the lesser known story of Horace Stoneham's move of the New York Giants to San Francisco, a relocation unlike the Dodgers' smooth transition into the culture of Los Angeles, that was fraught for decades with uncertainty and drama: Would the Giants stay or would they leave San Francisco? Ardell chronicles the individual story of a girl with a fierce desire to play professional baseball and the obstacles she encountered along the way.

The authors discussed the commonalities they found in their books; for example, both books cover their subjects' early years, growing pains and mid-life crises, and the settling into a hard-won identity. The authors also discussed the challenges they faced in bringing to life their biographies of a club and a ballplayer as well as the general subject of baseball biography.

Our April 2018 meeting featured David Nemecek talking about the history behind his many trivia books.

We auctioned the extensive collection of the late Ernest Nagy. Included was seventy years of *Who's Who in Baseball*.

Jon Leonoudakis presented work that SABR chapters had done with Alzheimer's disease patients. Talking about baseball had a positive effect.

Al Schallau led a lively discussion about "Casey at the Bat" and other poems based on the success of the original.

— **Barry Mednick**

Pee Wee Reese Chapter (Louisville, KY)

The Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter serves all of Kentucky with the largest percentage of its members residing in the Louisville area. Despite our best efforts, Chapter membership has continued to shrink since we hosted the very successful 1997 Annual SABR Convention in Louisville. Our satellite chapter is the Hoyt-Allen Chapter from Cincinnati, some of whose members do reside in Northern Kentucky.

Also, in February 2018 the Sweet Lou Johnson Chapter was formed in Lexington, KY.

The Chapter's primary regional meeting was held on SABR Day, January 27, 2018 at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, courtesy of Museum Director Anne Jewell. The Pee Wee Reese Chapter's meeting was successful both in terms of program and attendance. A total of 27 members and guests were present to hear excellent presentations from authors Joe Cox (Bowling Green, KY) and John Erardi (Cincinnati) about their newest books. Attendees hailed from: Louisville; Columbus, Indiana; Indianapolis; Cincinnati; and Lexington.

Dr. Jack Sullivan again prepared a challenging 25-question written Trivia Contest, with new Louisville Bats media and public relations manager Alex Mayer edging out faithful SABR members Robert Sawyer and Tad Myre for first place. Sawyer won a tie breaker, and the top two both received cash prizes. All attendees left with a door prize, courtesy of the book collection donated by the estate of deceased member Charles Faber. Guest Jeff Hollis won a one-year complimentary SABR membership, courtesy of the Chapter. Three silent auction prizes generated fan interest and helped fill the Chapter's coffers. Much laughter and camaraderie filled the day.

Steering committee member Ryan Schroer was recognized for his leadership in developing and maintaining the Chapter Facebook page. The membership was informed about the current discussion regarding the renaming of the Society.

The Chapter also hosted a meeting last October. Twenty members and guests attended the fall meeting of the Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory on October 21. They struggled against the street closings and traffic barricades caused by an unexpected marathon race that took place in downtown Louisville and the surrounding area on that same morning. The kind folks at the LSM&F once again provided an attractive, ample meeting space with attentive staff to assist.

Main speaker Dominic Latkovski, head of the Skillville Group, addressed the entertainment side of the Business of Baseball in the humorous recounting of his experiences in countless major and minor league stadiums. As Billy Bird, BirdZerk and with the Zooperstars, Dominic has encountered the good, the bad and the ugly of the baseball business, from players, managers and umpires. His talk was entertaining, insightful and much appreciated.

Dr. Joe Baumstarck of the University of Louisville made a scholarly presentation titled "Too Much Baseball? The Interaction Between Negro League, Major League and Minor League Baseball in Louisville."

Dr. Jack Sullivan prepared a challenging 10-question written Trivia Contest, non-competitive for this meeting, with faithful SABR members Robert Sawyer, Jeff Hollis and Rodger Payne finishing 1-2-3. Everyone left with double door prizes, courtesy of the book collection donated from the estate of late member Charles Faber.

Steve Silverman from Montgomery, Ohio won the silent auction for a complete set of the Conlon Collection baseball card series. Cubs fan Cindy Baker from Lexington attended her first meeting as a SABR member and greatly enjoyed it. Brief business reports were made.

On Saturday, July 22 last summer, 22 SABR members and prospective members, braving the 98-degree hot and humid day, attended the Louisville Bats game as guests of the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in their air-conditioned suite. Four of our guests were under 15 years old. It was "Christmas in July" at the ballpark, and most everyone arrived early enough to take home a Buddy (Bat) Claus bobble head.

Although the Bats looked ugly in their 8-0 loss to the Buffalo Bisons, much camaraderie prevailed in the suite. In addition, the chapter provided a fine spread of snacks and desserts. The written trivia

contest presented by Dr. Jack Sullivan saw Robert Sawyer triumph, with Rodger Payne and Ed Goldstein tying for second place. All received a variety of Cincinnati Reds and Pete Rose items. The silent auction items, raising funds for the Chapter, were won by Dr. Sullivan and Harry Rothgerber.

In a special surprise presentation, long-time Pee Wee Reese Chapter member and past treasurer Bud Thieman, 89, became the fifth member to receive the Home Plate Award, the highest honor the Chapter can bestow. A well-deserved honor! (On a sad note, Bud passed away in March.)

Guests who appeared at the event and fielded questions included Gary Ulmer, President of the Bats and Greg Galliette, Bats Senior Vice President. Much fun was had by all. Thanks again to the kind folks at LSM & F for donating their suite to our Chapter for the 8th year.

LSM & F, with Anne Jewell as its Director, continues to be an excellent and faithful corporate partner, both to national SABR and to our Chapter. As always, our fiscal status is excellent, although our treasury is in slight decline. We are always looking for ways to use the funds in our Chapter Treasury to benefit the membership.

Throughout the year, several members held informal gatherings in various casual settings to discuss baseball. Our steering committee members are: Harry Rothgerber (Spokesperson, Louisville), Ken Draut (Treasurer, Louisville), Craig Combs (Richmond), Bill Marshall (Lexington), Ryan Schroer (Columbus, Indiana) and Rodger Payne, Chris Krebs, Robert Sawyer and Jon Borie (Louisville).

The most significant, ongoing challenge facing the Chapter is its dwindling membership, combined with the wide geographical distance that members in rural Kentucky must travel to attend any meetings or gatherings. Our low membership numbers inhibit an increase in formal meetings. The effect on our membership, attendance and activities by the unexpected approval of a nearby Lexington Chapter three months ago remains to be seen.

On a more positive note, the Pee Wee Reese Chapter has always excelled in developing and maintaining positive relationships with its local partners, such as the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, the Louisville Bats Professional Baseball Club, the Louisville Sports Commission, civic groups and political and governmental leaders.

In related news, the Louisville Bats Baseball Club will honor the Chapter's namesake, Pee Wee Reese, on July 28, 2018, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pee Wee's birth. The game-event will include distribution of replicas of the Reese statue that stands in front of Slugger Field and appearances by members of the Reese family.

Once again, we look forward to supporting the national mission of SABR during the upcoming new fiscal year.

— **Harry Rothgerber**

Halsey Hall Chapter (Minneapolis, MN)

May 2017

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

Halsey Hall Book Club – Club members discussed *The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg*.

June 2017

Townball Roadtrip to Dundas: Adult amateur baseball game, Cannon Falls Bears vs. Dundas Dukes.

July 2017

Northwoods League Roadtrip to Mankato: College wooden bat summer baseball, Waterloo Bucks vs. Mankato MoonDogs.

Northwoods League Roadtrip to Thunder Bay, Ontario: College wooden bat summer baseball, Mankato MoonDogs vs. Thunder Bay Border Cats.

Research Committee Meeting: A recap of the SABR convention with attendees presenting on their experiences at the convention.

All-Star Game Viewing Party: An informal social gathering to watch the Midsummer Classic.

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

August 2017

Halsey Hall Book Club – Club members discussed *Storied Stadiums: Baseball's History Through Its Ballparks* by Curt Smith.

Halsey Hall Happy Hour – An evening social gathering to talk baseball.

September 2017

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

October 2017

Halsey Hall Book Club – Club members discussed *Ahead of the Curve: Inside the Baseball Revolution* by Brian Kenny.

World Series Viewing Party

Research Committee Meeting

November 2017

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

Fall Chapter Meeting – featuring guest speakers Dick Stigman and umpire Emma Charlesworth-Seiler.

Research Committee Meeting

December 2017

Halsey Hall Book Club – Club members discussed *The Pitch That Killed: The Story of Carl Mays, Ray Chapman, and the Pennant* by Mike Sowell.

Research Committee Meeting

Halsey Hall Happy Hour

January 2018

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

Southern Minny League Presentation: Paul Spyhalski presented on the 1937 to 1942 seasons of the Southern Minny League at the Hormel Historic Home in Austin, Minnesota.

TwinsFest – Halsey Hall members participated in the annual Twins offseason fan festival. In addition to recruiting new members and answering questions about SABR, we premiered our new presentation banner showcasing non-Twins Hall of Famers who played in Minnesota.

SABR Day Gathering – An informal social gathering at a local tavern to spread the word about SABR and talk baseball.

February 2018

Halsey Hall Book Club – Club members discussed *No More Mr. Nice Guy: A Life of Hardball* by Dick Williams and Bill Plaschke.

Caribbean Series Viewing Parties: Members gathered at a local Mexican restaurant to watch two Caribbean Series games.

Online Baseball Research Tool Panel Presentations: The Halsey Hall Chapter Research Committee hosted a panel discussion and demonstration of useful online tools for researching baseball. It was very well attended and was also our first foray into broadcasting an event via Facebook Live.

March 2018

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

Gophers Game Meet-Up: Members met to watch college ballgames, including the University of Washington vs. University of Minnesota, in the DQ Classic at US Bank Stadium.

Opening Day Viewing Party

Halsey Hall Happy Hour

April 2018

Halsey Hall Book Club – Club members discussed *Down to the Last Pitch: How the 1991 Minnesota Twins and Atlanta Braves Gave Us the Best World Series of All Time* by Tim Wendel.

Spring Chapter Meeting, featuring guest speaker Todd Mueller, author of *Town Ball Parks of Minnesota*.

Research Committee Meeting

May 2018

Vintage Base Ball Meet-Up: Members met in St. Croix to watch a vintage ball game between the Afton Red Sox and the St. Croix club.

Fred Souba Hot Stove Saturday Morning - An informal breakfast gathering for the purpose of talking baseball.

— Tom Flynn

Quebec Chapter (Montreal, QC)

We are happy to report that the Quebec Chapter is in good health. In January, we inaugurated our new website which has a more modern look. It is being updated regularly and new features are added constantly.

Our meetings are still being held four times a year. Our first meeting of 2017 was held on SABR Day. Sylvain Tremblay of the fan organization Encore Baseball Montreal and Philippe Georgiades of the Montreal Baseball Project came to talk about the state of baseball in Montreal and the progress made so far in bringing back a major League team to Montreal.

Our Spring meeting was held on April 29. The topic was baseball in the rural areas of the province of Quebec. Fellow member Alain Dumas talked about the history of baseball in the Lower St. Lawrence region of Quebec while chapter President Patrick Carpentier gave a presentation on baseball in the Laurentians, a region located just north of Montreal in the heart of ski country.

A tradition for the chapter, our Summer meeting was again held in Quebec City. We attended a game of the Canam League Quebec Capitales. The Quebec Baseball Hall of Fame is located in the Quebec Municipal Stadium and we had arranged our meeting to coincide with the induction ceremony. That night, Ian McDonald, former Montreal Expos beat writer and Charles Bronfman, former Expos owner, were inducted in the Hall of Fame.

Our last meeting of the 2017 season was held on December 2. Our friend Norm King talked about his new book which he is currently writing, a history of the 1979 Montreal Expos. Together with the strike shortened 1994 season, 1979 is perhaps the best Expos season ever. Norm reminded us that a number of Expos figures that year are now in Cooperstown, Gary Carter, Andre Dawson and Dick Williams among others.

We are proud to say that our membership is stable and that many members participate in Chapter activities regularly whether at our meetings, by correspondence or in discussions on social media.

— Patrick Carpentier

Grantland Rice–Fred Russell Nashville Chapter (Nashville, TN)

Through email and telephone conversations between a few members, it was decided that our Grantland Rice–Fred Russell (Nashville) SABR chapter would hold regular quarterly meetings, with the first one in the fall.

Saturday, October 21, 2017: Our meeting began at 10 AM at the East Nashville branch library, 206 Gallatin Ave., Nashville, TN 37206 near downtown, with former Cincinnati Reds pitcher Keith Brown was our guest. He talked about his amateur and professional career, including his bout with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The twelve members and guests were enthralled with Keith's story about his talent, perseverance, and determination.

We also discussed the results of our chapter's MLB regular- and post-season predictions, won by Joe Budd, with Hugh Atkins and Bryan Steverson tied for second place.

At the meeting it was felt a calendar that coincided with SABR Day, traditionally held on the last Saturday in January, continued throughout the year on the last Saturday of April, July, and October, would give members a firm date to add to their own events calendar.

After the meeting most of us went to a nearby restaurant, joined by Keith Brown, where we continued our discussion about his own spiritual journey.

Saturday, January 27, 2018 (SABR DAY): Our meeting was held at Dupont Hadley Middle School in the Alumni Room (behind the school), 1901 Old Hickory Blvd, Old Hickory, TN 37138 beginning at 10 AM.

Special guests included Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton, daughter of Negro League star Henry Kimbro, author of *Daddy's Scrapbook*. Harriet gave a presentation about what she has learned from her mother and family friends about her father's baseball career long after her father had passed away. A treasured family scrapbook was the inspiration for her book, and she continues to research and write about as she learns more about her father and those who impacted his career.

Former Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Jerry Bell (who grew up in the Dupont area) discussed his baseball career and brought along one of his Brewers game jerseys for all to see. Drafted by the Seattle Pilots, one of the highlights of his presentation included a meeting he had with MLB scout Bill Clark.

As Hall of Fame selections were announced a few days before, a lively discussion on the subject also ensued. Twelve members and guests attended the meeting. Afterwards most of us went to lunch at nearby Sam's Sports Grill.

April 28, 2018: This meeting began at 10 AM at the Donelson Branch of the Nashville Library, 2315 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN 37214. The location was chosen because of its central location since we had out-of-town speakers and easily accessible. Including guests, we had six members present.

We were pleased to have had two distinguished authors with us:

David Rapp, author of *Tinker to Evers to Chance: The Chicago Cubs and the Dawn of Modern America* (University of Chicago Press, April 2018), and Gaylon H. White, author of *Singles and Smiles: How Artie Wilson Broke Baseball's Color Barrier* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, March 2018.)

David's mother-in-law lives in the Nashville area, and made contact about his opportunity to visit with our chapter, and Gaylon agreed to be with us after an invitation was extended to him. Both authors had PowerPoint presentations to coincide with the discussion of each one's book.

Facts regarding the Chicago Cubs, along with learning Artie Wilson's career in "organized baseball" made for lively discussion.

We continued with lunch at McNamara's Irish Pub & Restaurant only a few blocks away.

Discussion continued about how to involve more individuals and to continue to communicate monthly to keep members informed. Our meetings for the remainder of the year will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at the Donelson branch library, and October 27, 2018, with the location to be determined. It is hopeful that former major league players and authors will be our featured guests at each meeting.

— Skip Nipper

Oklahoma Chapter (Oklahoma City, OK)

June 24, 2017: Hank Coiner for arranged, hosted, and guided SABR-OK chapter attendees to various Mickey Mantle related sites around Miami, OK and the Tri-State region. In Commerce we visited a restored Mantle family home where a young Mickey took “batting practice” thrown by his father and grandfather as well as the Mantle Memorial and sites of the various fields (some still in use) where the Commerce Comet played youth baseball. The trip extended to Baxter Springs, KS where Mickey played youth baseball and Joplin, MO where he spent his second professional season in 1950. Hank entertained and informed us with anecdotes about the Mantle family and Mickey’s life in the area, both as a youth and during Major League off-seasons. Hank’s guidance included copies of some Mantle family documents. The side trips to view various “Bonnie and Clyde” crime spots interspersed with Mantle sites added to the groups enjoyment of the tour. Additional kudos go to Kal Zitterkob for providing some statistical detail extracted from his stockpile of historical information on minor league ball in Oklahoma and to Ron Elliott for providing transportation and assuming driving responsibilities for a group of seven.

February 24, 2018: SABR-OK met February 24 in Binger, OK. We gathered at the Johnny Bench Museum (202 W. Main Street) at 11 AM. The museum contains a number of interesting artifacts from Bench’s youth, as well as his playing days and selection to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Among the more significant exhibits were: each of his All-Star Game bats, his entire collection of Gold Gloves, and his first National League MVP trophy. After the museum visit (largely self-guided) we re-convened at the nearby Binger Community Center (208 W. Main Street) for lunch, and a visit with Bench’s longtime friends (and the museum management) Buddy and Janet Britton, along with their daughter Sherry Hunt. The Brittons are retired school teachers who have known Bench from his boyhood years in Binger and Ms. Hunt was a recipient of an academic scholarship from the Johnny Bench Foundation. .

— **Howard Johnson**

Forbes Field Chapter (Pittsburgh, PA)

September 23, 2017

Chip Martin discussed the connections between the early Pittsburgh Alleghenys and the Detroit Wolverines . His new book on the topic will be published soon.

Ron Backer gave us a video walk through the use of the Pirates and Forbes Field in movies over the years. Especially interesting was his section on the original “Angels in the Outfield.”

We became aware of a near-by early team the Southern Ohio Copperheads with a fine presentation by Jeffrey Stephan.

Lois Thomson related a personal story of how she obtained a baseball autographed by Jerry Koosman and how she “prayed” he would be inducted into the Hall of Fame

We were given a comparison of the Pirates and the Phillies in the 60s, 70s, and 80s by Doug Branson

Bob Trumpbour gave a detailed discussion of the construction and use of Forbes Field in a presentation he hopes to make at SABR 48 in Pittsburgh.

Our meeting we capped off with a serious, but often humorous, account of Pirates announcer Bob Walks life both as a ballplayer and a Pirates color analyst.

SABR DAY, January 27, 2018

We were made aware of the comedic actions of the “Clown Prince of Baseball,” AL Schatts in a very

humorous presentation by Brian Engelhardt who is preparing a presentation for SABR 48.

Joe Guzzardi took us on a pleasant trip to the home of Roberto Clemente in his talk, “My Warm Winter Nights With Roberto Clemente.

We then puzzled through a mind-boggling trivia quiz by Jim Haller on Pirate History Through the Decades.

We had an extremely analytical presentation on the correlation between pitches and fielding errors by our analytics expert Eliza Richardson who is also preparing a presentation for SABR 48.

Former Pirates batboy, Bob Recker reminisced about his years spent with the Pirates and the 1959 All-Star Game.

George gave an update for plans for SABR 48.

April 7, 2018

George Skornickel gave a presentation on The Louisville Grays Scandal of 1877 which he will be giving at this years “Fred” Conference

We were treated to a discussion and a reading from author, Dan J. Kirk’s new book “Between the Innings which features a character who is a major Pirates fan.

We were again baffled by a trivia quiz by Jim Haller, this time on Opening Day trivia

Brian Engelhardt related how Pirate made the same type of error as the famous (or infamous) Fred Merkle miscue

Relatively new Pirates announce Joe Block gave us an interesting glimpse into his career as a broadcaster, including some humorous stories about Bob Ucker when Bob broadcasted for the Brewers

George gave an update on the plans for SABR 48.

— **George Skornickel**

Southern New England Lajoie-Start SABR Chapter (Providence, RI)

As one of several chapters that crowd New England, the Southern New England (Lajoie-Start) Chapter confines its activities to two meetings a year. Our chapter year begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in November at St. Philip’s Parish Center in Greenville, Rhode Island. We follow up with a meeting at McCoy Stadium (Pawtucket) in June on a Saturday when the Pawtucket Red Sox are playing at home. Both meetings draw good crowds, but November’s attendance is always higher than June’s.

On Saturday, November 25, 2017, we had a lively meeting at St. Philip’s. The attendance was 53 members and guests. The audience of 53 members and guests heard two guest speakers: **Lenny DiNardo**, former left-handed pitcher for the Red Sox, Athletics, and Royals and now a Red Sox pre- and post-game broadcaster, and **Kevin O’Connor**, an umpire evaluator for Major League Baseball.

Research presentations were given by **Steve Krevisky** (events of 1917); **Rick Harris** (Early Twentieth Century Discrimination Against African-Americans and Women); **Dixie Tourangeau** (Reminiscences a la **Al Kermisch**); **Paul Henseler** (on his book, *The New Boys of Summer: Baseball’s Radical Transformation in the Late Sixties*); and **Bill Ryczek** (on his book *Baseball on the Brink: The Crisis of 1968*).

Father **Gerry Beirne's** trivia quiz had a focus on modern players. It was won by **Marc Wise**.

As usual, the baseball book raffle and sale was heavily patronized.

At this meeting we always hold a mock Hall of Fame election. This time the electors gave the nod to ballot newcomer Chipper Jones (76.6 percent of the votes) and no one else. Only four others received at least 50 percent of the vote: newcomer Jim Thome (70.2%), Vlad Guerrero (57.4%), Edgar Martinez (53.2%), and Trevor Hoffman (51.0%). None of the candidates on the Modern Era ballot were "elected." The top vote-getters were Luis Tiant (48.9%), Marvin Miller (36.2%), and Alan Trammell (21.2%). The election is conducted by chapter member **Mike Darowski**. If other chapters are interested in holding an election, Mike will be happy to share his documents, steps for running, and a few tips. You can reach him at: mike@mikedarowski.com.

The chapter's second meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, under a picnic tent at McCoy Stadium. The guest speaker will be **Upton Bell**, a radio sports talk host in the Boston area who has a varied past. He is the son of the late Bert Bell, former commissioner of the NFL, and he was the general manager of the New England Patriots in the 1970s. As is customary, we will be visited by the manager of the Pawtucket Red Sox, **Kevin Boles**, and his coaches. Member presentations are scheduled to be given by **Joanne Hulbert, Jay Hurd, Mark Kanter, and David Kaiser**.

— **Len Levin**

Luke Easter Chapter (Rochester, NY)

The Luke Easter Chapter held several events over this past year to promote baseball research and discussion in the Rochester and Western New York area. Our major event is a Hot Stove Dinner held on SABR day. Our featured speaker this year was Randy Mobley, long time president of the International League who regaled the crowd of 60 with many stories - including a show and tell of Jose Guillen's corked bat from 2001 (yes - he used wine bottle corks!).

Returning events included a World Series party, tour of Mt Hope Cemetery focusing on Rochester baseball history, multiple vintage baseball exhibitions, as well as talks at local libraries and community centers. We have continued to have a twice-yearly Hot Stove Talk series with a set of four SABR style talks book-ending the baseball season.

We look forward to continuing to provide programming to serve the baseball fans of Western New York.

— **Ryan Brecker**

Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter (Sacramento, CA)

SABR's Sacramento Chapter convened for the first time in Sacramento on Saturday, November 5, 1994, with the initial meeting organized by the late Woody Wilson, and Greg King. Previously to our formation, SABR members residing within Sacramento region were considered to be part of the Lefty O'Doul Chapter, centered in the San Francisco Bay Area (about 100 miles away), with which our chapter maintains a close association with today, with members of each chapter receiving respective meeting notices.

The Sacramento Chapter was renamed the Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter in early 2017 after having

received approval from approximately 80% of the chapter members who voted and after we had received permission from Dusty to associate our chapter with him. Baker has spent more than fifty years in the Sacramento area, moving here with his family while attending high school, and where he became an outstanding athlete in numerous sports before being drafted by the Braves.

Since our inception nearly 25 years ago, the Chapter has typically hosted between three and four meetings per year, which have usually been Saturday afternoon affairs. The Chapter has never officially elected officers and there seems to be little desire to do so on the part of the membership, but an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) was formed in 2016 and the body informally discusses ideas for future meetings following the regular meetings or by phone or email afterwards. The ESC is not exclusive; anyone can join. Greg King facilitates the chapter meetings and sends out notices; Alan O'Connor has stepped in to help organize the meetings and arrange for speakers. Other members have stepped in to assist during the meetings, including selling tickets for the book raffle and preparing the popular trivia quizzes.

Due to excessive adjacent noise, parking difficulties, security concerns, and a tight squeeze for those attending luncheons at the Limelight Bar and Grill in Sacramento, where we held most of our meetings between 2015-2017, the Chapter continues to search for more adequate meeting places and has thrown out the net to find more apropos potential meeting locations. Because of this experimentation, we have moved the meetings around to various locations during the past year.

Our meetings generally kick off with self-introductions (sometimes tied with brief announcements), two key presentations, a trivia contest (with a book or DVD prize going to the winner) and a book raffle featuring books and other baseball-related items generously donated by members or purchased. The money collected via the raffle pays for non-SABR member speaker lunches and allows for money to buy still more books for the raffle as part of the continuous cycle. While our meetings usually include an affordable luncheon (\$15-\$20), buying a lunch is never required of attendees. Our meetings usually last about 3 hours but it is not unusual to see members gather in small groups even beyond that time.

During the one-year period since the last annual report was prepared and submitted, the Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter held these meetings:

On November 4, 2017, twenty-six SABR members gathered at the Limelight Bar and Grill in mid-town Sacramento for a luncheon meeting featuring two main speakers. First up, Jim Baradoni, a southpaw who pitched for legendary USC Trojan baseball coach Rod Dedeaux, and local teams in the Sacramento Valley in the late 1950s, spoke to the group of his memories. Then California State University-Sacramento History Professor Mark Ocegueda discussed his ongoing research (and publications) on the history of Mexican-American/Latino baseball in Sacramento and in Southern California. John Blackburn was the winner of the trivia contest.

Thursday evening January 18, 2018, turned out to be was a soggy night, but we still garnered an attendance of some 55 people for an elegant dinner featuring our special guest, Dusty Baker, our Chapter's namesake, held at the Granite Bay Golf Club. We were also pleased that former Toronto Blue Jays/Minnesota Twins outfielder, Alvis Woods could join us. A trivia contest entirely focused on Dusty Baker's life and baseball career was won by Graham Womack. Dusty missed some of the questions. Dusty reviewed with attendees his childhood, growing up in Sacramento, signing with Atlanta, and his many years of professional ball as a player, coach, and manager, sharing life lessons learned and philosophies (See photo taken at dinner event on next page).

On Saturday, May 19, 2018, more than 40 SABR members and friends attended a luncheon meeting held at the Claim Jumper Restaurant in Roseville, CA. Our two featured speakers were Professor Rob Garratt, whose book *Home Team: the Turbulent History of the San Francisco Giants*, on the

organization's shift from Manhattan to San Francisco, was a 2018 Seymour Award finalist, and Mark McDermott, freelance writer and for many years a staff sportswriter who covered area high school, collegiate and minor league baseball for the *Sacramento Bee*. Dr. Garratt highlighted the attitudes of the San Francisco press corps to the newly transplanted team, and why they supported some players over others. McDermott discussed the major-league prospects past and present who hailed from the greater Sacramento Valley. Mark is the author of *Touching All Bases*, his just-released Herculean monograph on regional baseball players. As for the trivia contest, Tom Howell picked up the prize for the most correct answers.

— **Greg King**

Bob Broeg St. Louis Chapter (St. Louis, MO)

The Bob Broeg SABR Chapter of St. Louis meets twice monthly. This past year the chapter moved its regular meetings from the Original Crusoe's Restaurant in South St. Louis, where they had met for several years, to the Sports Café in Bridgeton. The new location is much more convenient, especially for some of the older members, since the meeting area is on the ground level. The less formal 'First Wednesday' meetings have been held at various locations this past year. The regular meetings follow an agenda that includes any old or new business topics, a today in baseball history segment, research presentations, book reviews, time for some general baseball discussion, and concludes with a trivia quiz. The average attendance at these meetings is about 20 members and guests.

Eleven of our local members attended SABR 47 in New York City.

Allison Levin has formed a satellite chapter among students at Webster University this past year.

On Saturday, August 26, 2017, the chapter held its third annual Research Conference at the Emerson Library on the campus of Webster University. There were six presentations: Jim Leefers – “Grand Slam Shares”; Allison Levin – “All in Good Fun (Rookie Hazing)”; Mike Mitchell – “Birds, Bombers, Beer, & Baseball”; Bob Tiemann – “Major League Attendance 1889-1909”; Ed Wheatley – “Why the Browns Matter”; and Rick Zucker – “A Tale of Two Championship Seasons – 1926 & 2011”. The panel of judges chose Rick Zucker as the recipient of the third annual Jim Rygelski Research Award.

The September meeting was a special event at the Cardinals Nation Restaurant at the Ballpark Village in downtown St. Louis. After a fine meal the attendees enjoyed an after hours tour of the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame & Museum hosted by Brian Finch, Manager of Stadium Tours and Museum Outreach.

The chapter held its annual Hot Stove Luncheon at Favazza's Restaurant on SABR Day, January 27, 2018 with 45 in attendance. Featured speakers this year were author Doug Feldmann (who discussed his latest work “Whitey Herzog Builds a Winner”), Ed Wheatley, co-author along with Bill Rogers and Bill Borst of “St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved Team”, and Heather Simon and John Fleming, writers for the Viva El Birdos website.

The March meeting was another special event at the Cardinals Nation Restaurant as the chapter celebrated what would have been Bob Broeg's 100th birthday. Special guests were Greg Emmenegger, Bob's stepson, and current St. Louis Post Dispatch columnist Benjamin Hochman.

This past year also saw our long-time chapter treasurer (Wayne Hebden), and president (Brian Flaspohler) step down from their positions. The current officers are: Rick Zucker – President, Jeff Ecker – Vice-President, Jim Leefers – Secretary, and Mark Stangl – Treasurer.

— **Jim Leefers**

Lefty O'Doul/Bay Area Chapter (San Francisco, CA)

Our annual events are the core of our season and help put structure to our year.

SABR Day, cohosted with the Sacramento Chapter, was once again partnered with the San Francisco Main Library. This year, we celebrated the grand opening of “The Colors of Baseball” exhibit from the Baseball Reliquary. It was a wonderful meeting as we enjoyed visiting the exhibit as well as viewing the documentary “Only the Ball Was White” followed by a fascinating panel discussion featuring curator Terry Cannon, former ballplayer Nate Oliver and artist Bill Cormalis Jr. We cohosted several other events related to the exhibit, including an inprogress documentary on umpire Emmett Ashford, a presentation by chapter member Rob Elias that talked about the times and people that preceded Rickey’s hiring of Jackie Robinson, a screenings of “A Long Way from Home: The Untold Story of Baseball’s Desegregation” and “No No: a Dockumentary.”

We also cohosted a wonderful event from Jon Leondoudakis, “Shut Out- The Battle Women Wage to Play Baseball” followed by a wonderful panel featuring Ila Borders, Rocky Henley, Alex Sickenger Oglesby and Jennifer Ring. You can watch this on “The Sweet Spot” on Amazon Prime, Hulu and other streaming media.

More with SFPL: an evening celebrating the Dodgers and Giants move west 60 years ago. SABR friends Andy McCue and Rob Garratt discussed how it all came about.

We are very happy with our ongoing relationship with San Francisco Main Library and thank Joan Jasper, programming Librarian and Cubs fan, for all her work with these programs.

We look forward to the annual Pacific Coast League Reunion and this annual visit with old ballplayers from the Pacific Coast League. We are now joined by their families to carry on the tradition. Thanks to Mark Macrae and Dick Beverage for their dedication to the league and these players.

The chapter also hosted an authors’ afternoon at the San Lorenzo Library, featuring Jean Ardell, Dennis Snelling, Anika Orrick, Rob Garratt and Bill Soto-Castellanos. It was fun listening to each talk about his/her books.

I want to thank the Lefty O’Doul Chapter members for their support. Thanks to Pete MacPhail for taking care of our treasury for all these years. Thanks to Mark Macrae for his support and assistance with all our efforts.

As always, I would like to thank SABR HQ and Board for all the support they provide. We appreciate all that you do to run the organization.

— **Marlene Vogelsang**

Ted Williams San Diego Chapter (San Diego, CA)

During 2017-2018, we had two regional chapter meetings.

Saturday, June 17, 2017, San Diego Central Neil Morgan Auditorium

We had a single subject topic for this meeting:

"A Treasury of Baseball Stories." Presentation on the new streaming TV channel, providing a destination for baseball fans everywhere to hang their caps and view original content in their living rooms. Co-founder and baseball documentarian, Jon Leonoudakis, previewed some of the episodes and led a panel discussion about the importance of oral histories to preserve baseball history.

Saturday, January 18, 2018, San Diego Central Library Baseball Research Center

For this regional meeting we had five presentations covering a wide range of subjects:

"Career Saves: Charting the Rising Impact of the One Inning Save: Is 400 the New 300?" This was a presentation from Wayne Towers on his on-going research into relief pitching.

"My Date with Destiny: Capturing Tony Gwynn's First Major League Hit." Fred Rodgers reported on who was there—San Diego Stadium, Monday, July 19, 1982.

"The Collection." Former LA Dodgers team photographer, Richard Kee, shared iconic images from the 1970s and 80s and the stories behind them.

"The Miraculous Ascension of the San Diego Padres." This was a presentation by Andy McCue on the background leading up to the introduction of San Diego to Major League Baseball.

"'Our' 2018 Padres." This was commentary and discussion with Tristan Sandler, an Analyst in baseball research and development for the San Diego Padres.

Our next regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 7, 2018, in the San Diego Padres Petco Park Auditorium.

Two Chapter Steering Committee Meetings

Our steering committee met on November 8, 2017, and on April 4, 2018. At the November meeting two new officers were confirmed: President, Tom Larwin, and Treasurer, Dan Boyle.

Projects

San Diego Library (Baseball Research Center) Partnership. We continue to coordinate with the Library on the processing and organization of material from the Bill Weiss Archive and offering input related to acquisition of newly issued baseball books and annuals. Both of our regional meetings were held in the Library, one in the Auditorium and the other in the 8th floor Baseball Research Center.

San Diego Padres 50 Years Book. We have worked with the SABR Bioproject Committee on the development and writing of a book to be published in 2019 that would commemorate 50 years of the Padres being in MLB.

Ancestry.com Partnership. We have had discussions with Ancestry.com with the objective of having the Weiss player questionnaires publicly available via the internet by 2019.

Miscellaneous Projects. Chapter members are working to complete publications on the following San Diego professional baseball teams: 1913 San Diego Bears, 1929 San Diego Aces, 1936 PCL San Diego Padres, and 1946 San Diego Tigers.

— Tom Larwin

Orlando Cepeda Chapter (San Juan, PR)

Here is our 2018 annual report:

I. Increase the Chapter membership to 28 active members

II. 2018 Activities

January 2018: Member President Jorge Lopez and Angel Colon hand over to Adalberto Flores (Santurce Cangrejeros) the Hiram Bithorn Trophy. SABR Puerto Rico chapter is the main sponsor of the Pitcher of the Year Award of the Puerto Rico winter baseball league.

January 2018: SABR Day at the Museo del Deporte de Puerto Rico. The special guest was Alex Cora, former major leaguer and current Boston Red Sox Manager.

February 2018: Special guest activity with former major leaguer pitcher Juan Pizarro. Also among special guests were former majors Santos Alomar, senior; Willie Montanez, Jerry Morales and Pedro Garcia. As part of the reunion, Chapter members celebrated Juan Pizarro's 81st birthday.

April 2018: Earth Day. Chapter member Angel Colón made a special presentation at the Puerto Rico Conversation Trust called “Forest Memories”. At the appearance was presented 30 bats made from different woods of fallen trees made by local artisans due to Hurricane Maria.

April 2018: Chapter meeting “Del 1942 al 2018, Puertorriqueños en las Grandes Ligas en la Historia” at the Museo del Deporte de Puerto Rico.

May 2018: Special presentation by MLB certified scorer Jun Juarbe “La Regla 9, Anotaciones en el béisbol de Grandes Ligas” at the Museo del Deporte de Puerto Rico.

June 2018: Chapter members participation at the Pittsburgh SABR National Convention.

III. Second Half of 2018 projections

Increase Chapter membership.

Special Activities related to:

- Juegos Centroamericanos y del Caribe.
- Major League Baseball related
- 80th anniversary of the Puerto Rico baseball winter league

— **Jorge Fidel Lopez**

Korea Chapter (Seoul, KOR)

The chapter currently has ten members, but I am the only one currently residing in Korea. I know a couple of people interested in Korean baseball and have spoken to them about SABR, but they have not decided to join yet. Additionally, there are a few ex-members that I am still trying to persuade to rejoin.

We didn't have any official meetings in the past year as I'm the only member currently living in Korea.

One main issue regarding this chapter is that I am working for a Korean baseball team, which significantly limits what I can do for the chapter publically. While I'm still willing to remain involved, and handle administrative related matters for the chapter, I'm still looking for someone who can replace me in terms of publicity matters and who is less restricted with the types of limitations I have.

I have remained in contact with Dan Evans from the Rocky Mountain Chapter and we are still talking about exploring possible collaborations between the two chapters. We will continue to discuss this. I have also spoken to the Tokyo chapter about doing something with them, but nothing concrete has been

set.

Additionally, I have met a few people interested in Korean baseball cards here and am trying to get them to join SABR and have mentioned the relaunched Baseball Cards Committee to them.

My plan for the rest of this year will be to try to have a few informal events to promote SABR here and try to recruit a few more Korea based members and continue talks with the other SABR chapters.

— **Patrick Bourgo**

SABR North Florida-Buck O'Neil Chapter (Tallahassee, FL)

The North Florida/Buck O'Neil Chapter, based in Tallahassee, Florida, has kept up its steady pace of activities and membership growth in the past year.

Our monthly socials (typically on the first Wednesday of the month) continue to both lively and well-attended. Topics discussed include, but are never limited to, the ongoing Yankees/Red Sox rivalry, the annual Baseball Hall of Fame ballots, rules and voting results (always engaging), the pros and cons of “tanking” at the major league level (and whether in some cases the effort is deliberate on the part of the franchise or not), college baseball, and Chapter members’ annual MLB predictions for the coming season.

A highlight of Chapter activities this year was the 2018 SABR Day in America meeting, and its follow-up gathering on April 4, 2018. The Chapter hosted Chip Baker, Director of Baseball Operations for Florida State University’s Men’s Baseball Program, and himself a long-time coach for Head Coach Mike Martin Sr. Chip regaled attendees with a very entertaining and insightful talk about Florida State’s program, which ran the gamut from its history to major events to players both famous and not as famous to the program’s current state of affairs, including Coach Martin’s pursuit of the all-time record for wins by a Division I head coach. Chip also shared with Chapter members that April 4 game against Jacksonville University would be a celebration of the Negro Leagues, and would be an event co-sponsored by the Florida State University Black Student Union, itself celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The membership immediately began making plans to be at the game, and attended the event in force on the afternoon of April 4. During the game, in which Florida State prevailed 6 -2, Florida State even gave a shout-out to the North Florida/Buck O'Neil Chapter, and placed the SABR logo on the newly-installed high-definition video board. Both events on January 27 and April 4 were well-enjoyed by all who attended, and will be remembered fondly for years to come by Chapter members.

Chapter members also keep their research and writing skills sharp, submitting offerings as part of the ongoing SABR BioProject and SABR Baseball Games Project. Chapter members attended SABR 47 in New York City in 2017, and will also be attending SABR 48 in Pittsburgh in June, an event eagerly anticipated by all who plan to make the trip, not only because of what promises to be a great conference, but also for the chance to enjoy at least one game (and likely more) at PNC Park, one of the true palaces of baseball.

— **Matthew Keelean**

Hanlan's Point Chapter (Toronto, ON)

The Hanlan's Point Chapter had a successful year in 2017-18.

The featured speaker at our fall event was author Dave Beattie discussing his book *Ossie and the Babe*.

SABR Day in January included the Chapter presenting at the Spring Training for Baseball Fans course at Seneca College in Toronto. The featured speaker was Shi Davidi, a reporter covering the Jays for the Sportsnet network. Shi provided some interesting insights on the ballclub going through a management transition, including tough decisions on compete versus rebuild. He was quite generous with his time, fielding detailed questions from the class.

In addition, two Chapter members presented research on:

Who can be classified as a Canadian who has/is playing in major league baseball (not nearly as straight forward as one would think).

When is the winning run scored? The research raised some interesting questions about implications for batting orders and use of pitchers. Interesting to note strategies deployed by Bobby Bragan were considered, a topic to be explored in more depth at the upcoming Pittsburgh convention.

The Chapter is also pleased to recognize Bill Humber, well established Canadian baseball historian, will be inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame the weekend prior to the SABR convention. Congratulations, Bill.

— **Allen Tait**

Bob Davids Chapter (Washington, DC)

It was another successful year for the Bob Davids Chapter of SABR. We hosted our usual annual events:

— Nats Game on Saturday August 26, 2017, where 40 SABR members heard speakers Charlie Brotman, Phil Wood, and Mike Wallace (no, not the former 60 Minutes anchor) before enjoying a Washington Nationals-New York Mets game.

— SABR Day Annual Meeting (actually held the Saturday before SABR Day on Saturday January 20, 2018). The event went from 9:30 to 40:30 and was attended by 120 people. We featured a wide array of speakers: Jorge Castillo, who covers the Washington Nationals for the Washington Post; Dick Bosman, the former pitcher for the Washington Senators from 1965 to 1971 who pitched in the final game of the expansion Senators and the co-author (with chapter member Ted Leavengood) of "Dick Bosman on Pitching"; Emma Baccellieri, a writer for Deadspin who spoke about Statcast, a topic on which she wrote an extensive; a scouts panel featuring three major league scouts; chapter member Paul Scimonelli, the author of the new book "Roy Sievers: 'The Sweetest Right Handed Swing' in 1950s Baseball"; and chapter member Brian Englehardt, who spoke on former player and comedian Al Schacht

We also participated with the Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter in a minor league game in Aberdeen, MD, where we saw a doubleheader.

We have also continued our three monthly events:

— Talkin' Baseball, which is in its 20th year, hosted by Dave Paulson. Held on the first Saturday of the month in Columbia, MD, it features baseball authors discussing their work, averaging about 15-20 attendees.

— Hot Stove Dinner in Arlington, VA. The dinner draws about 10-12 people a month who talk baseball and is held at the Sliver Diner, near the Clarendon metro stop. We had to move restaurants again because our previous home went out of business, but we were able to find a new home that met our requirements: near a Metro and with parking nearby.

— Hot Stove Dinner in Silver Spring, MD. This dinner draws 6-10 members and has been held monthly at the Tastee Diner since its inception.

The goal with these monthly events is to provide a geographically-diverse set of events that allow members to interact with each other.

We are looking forward to another good year for our chapter. Our Nats game will be Saturday, August 4 and our minor league game will be Saturday, September 1 at the home of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs in Waldorf, MD.

We encourage SABR members who in the area during one of our monthly and annual events to contact us for details and to join us!

— **David Raglin**